Until Death do us Part
8
Story:
Hiroshi Takashige
Art:
DOUBLE-S

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Until Death
do us Part

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do us

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chapter 116

KATA (THUNK)
ピ
PII (BEEP)
ピ
PII
OH... THAT?
You completely ignored my orders and let Haruka Tooyama attend school under her own identity.
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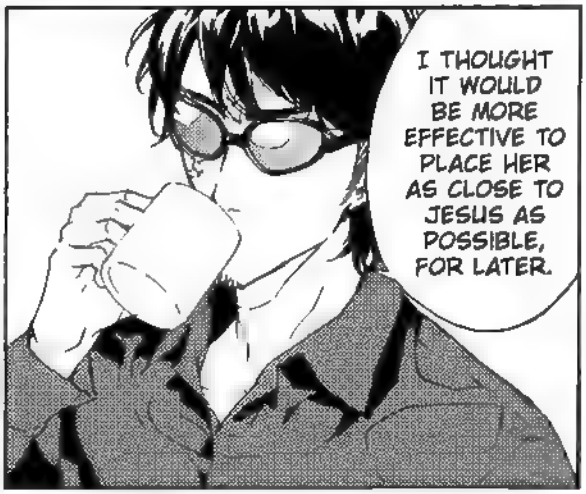
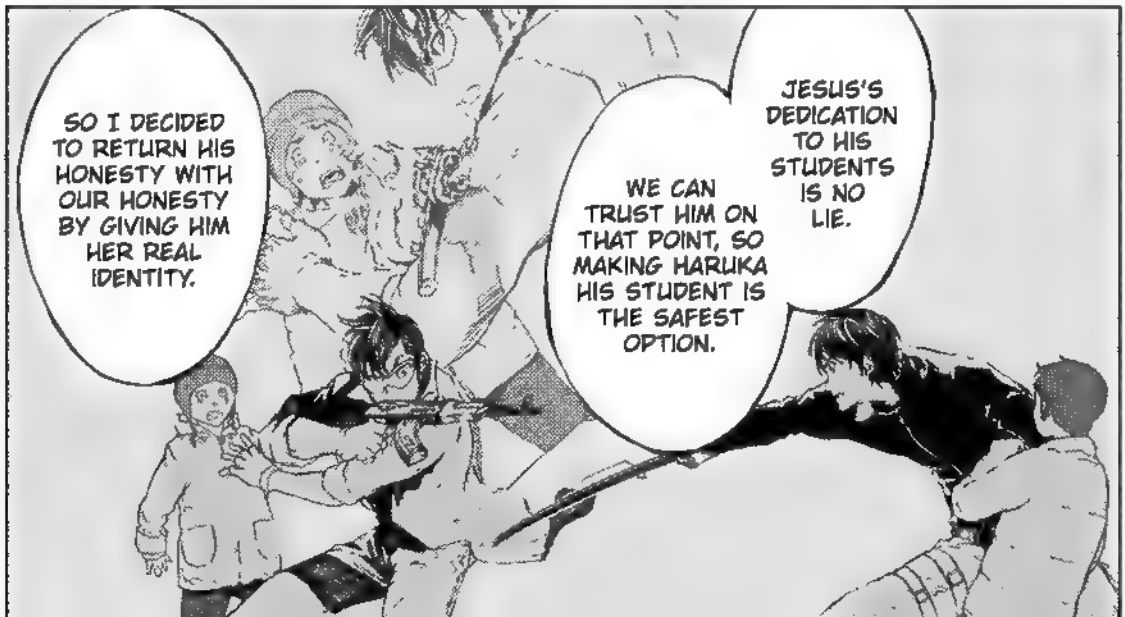
start
unknown online
And in high school placement, no less.

...BUT I WANT TO HEAR YOUR REASONING.
I'LL TAKE THE CIRCUM-STANCES INTO ACCOUNT...

!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?

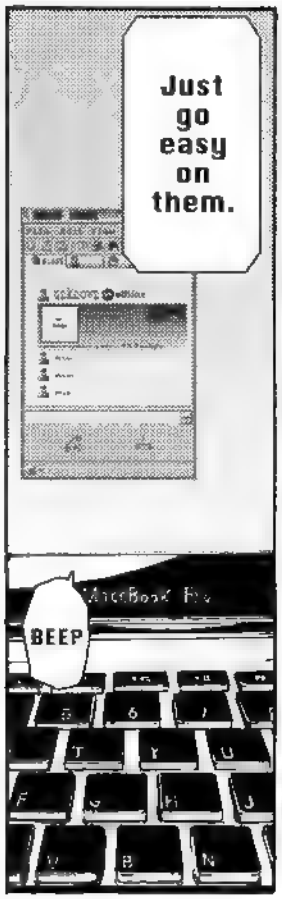

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE TO PLACE HER AS CLOSE TO JESUS AS POSSIBLE, FOR LATER.


SO I DECIDED TO RETURN HIS HONESTY WITH OUR HONESTY BY GIVING HIM HER REAL IDENTITY.
WE CAN TRUST HIM ON THAT POINT, SO MAKING HARUKA HIS STUDENT IS THE SAFEST OPTION.
JESUS'S DEDICATION TO HIS STUDENTS IS NO LIE.

VERY FEW PEOPLE ARE SUICIDAL ENOUGH TO GO AFTER HER RIGHT NOW.
KOTO (THINK)
コト！
...I SEE...
AND IN EITHER CASE, AITOU ACADEMY IS CURRENTLY THE BEST POSSIBLE PLACE TO PROTECT HER.
THEY'D HAVE TO BE TOTAL IDIOTS OR A GROUP WITH CONSIDERABLE FIREPOWER.
SOMETIMES YOU REALLY DO ASTONISH ME...
AND IT'S ALSO THE PERFECT PLACE FOR YOU TO CHOOSE YOUR "IDEAL FOE."

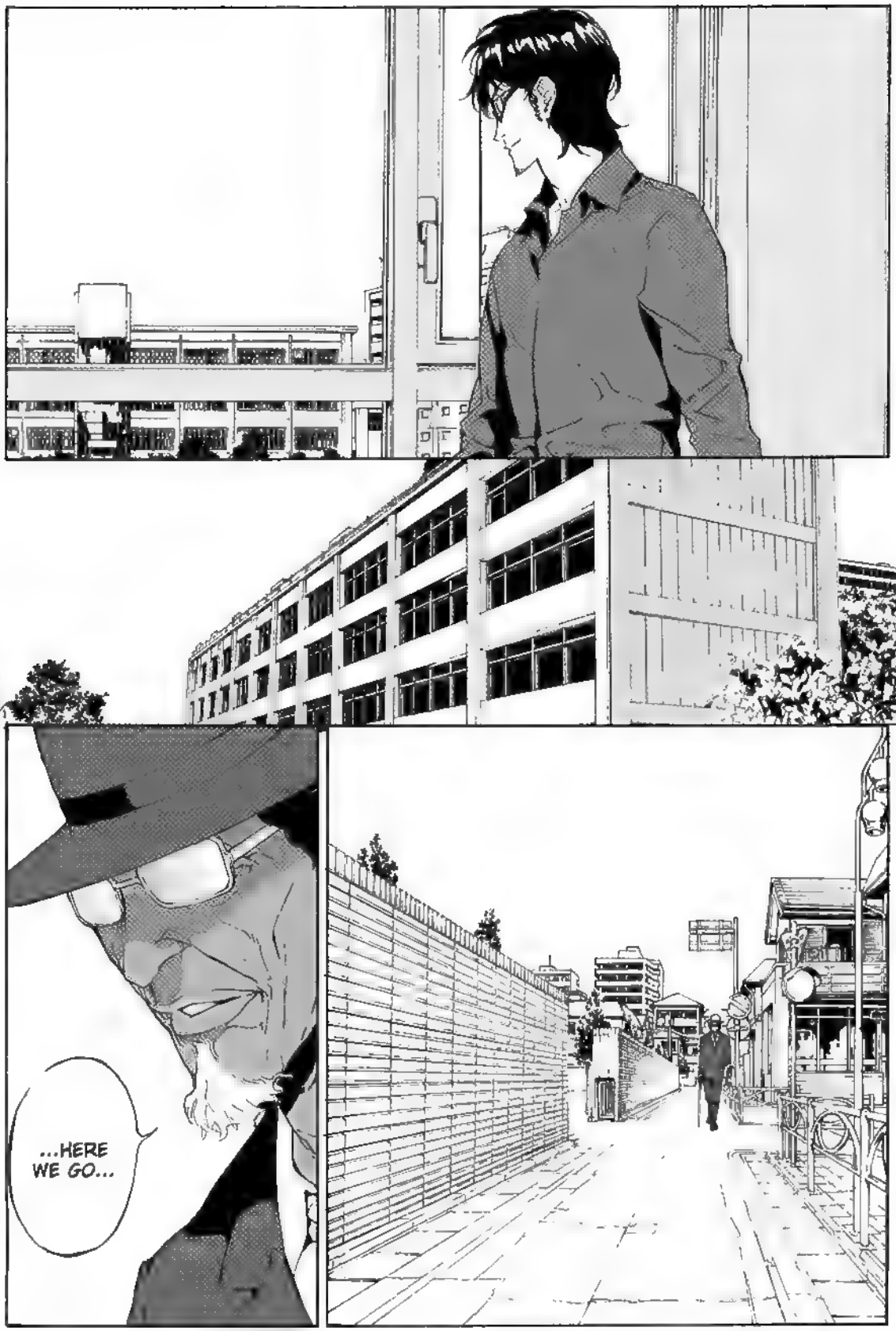
About that...
NOW THAT SHE'S SHOWING HER TRUE FACE, THEY'LL KNOW WHERE WE ARE WITHIN TWO DAYS.
...
!?
HERE COMES GALBOA...
AND IT SEEMS THAT THEY ARE INDEED AFTER BOTH YOU AND HER.
WE'VE ALREADY ATTRACTED THAT "GROUP WITH CONSIDERABLE FIREPOWER."

EVEN 24'S NIGHT GAUNTS WOULDN'T FRIGHTEN THEM AWAY.
THEY'RE SOME OF THE BEST OF THE BEST— TRULY ELITE SOLDIERS.
THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S THE "BLACK UNIT," AN EXTRALEGAL FORCE FROM THE QUASI-STATE OF DUHANA.


Just go easy on them.
BEEP

I HAD A FEELING YOU'D SAY THAT.

SOUNDS GOOD...

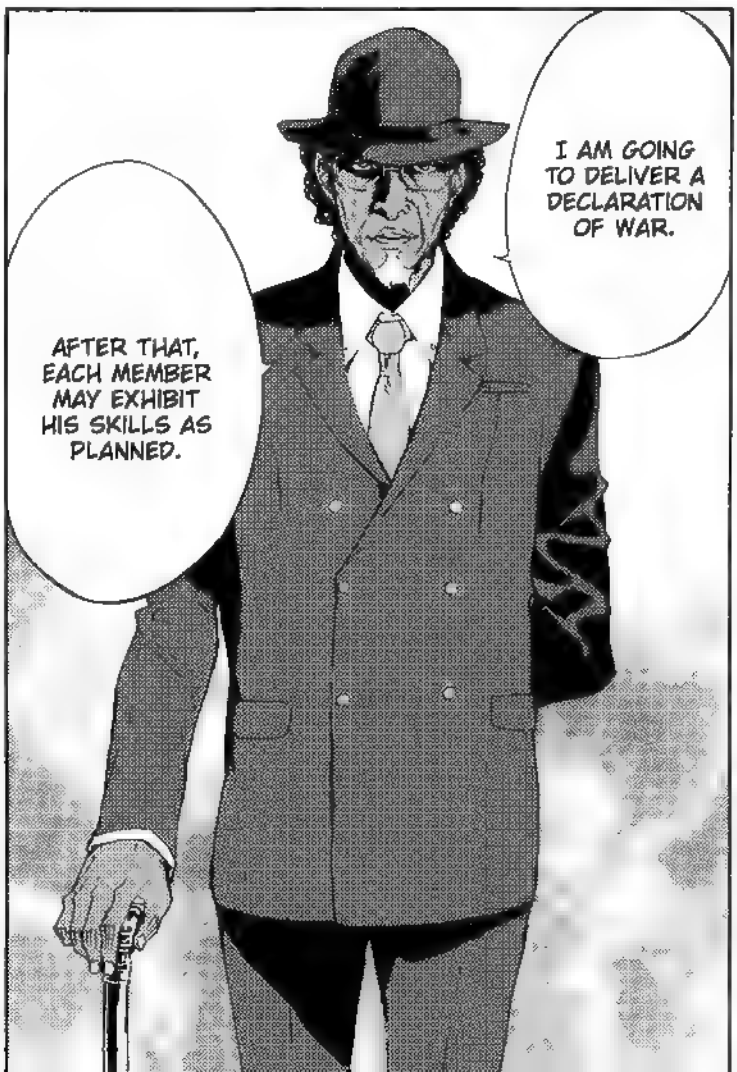

...HERE WE GO...

WATCH MY BACK, INVISIBLE.

...DEGA...
WHAT'S YOUR PLAN, ZELM?
I'M ASKING AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ENTIRE GROUP.
I WANT A REASON FOR YOUR LONE ACTIONS.
DEPENDING ON YOUR ANSWER, YOU MIGHT NEED TO SUFFER THE PUNISHMENT FOR MUTINY.

YOU ARE WELL-PREPARED FOR TROUBLE, WARRIORS OF DUHANA...
BUT I'VE DETERMINED THAT WE TRUMP CARDS MUST RISK OUR LIVES FOR THE SAKE OF THIS BATTLE.
AND?
WE'RE NOW A ROGUE UNIT, INDEPENDENT OF COUNTRY AND ARMY.
I AM FAITHFUL TO MR. GENIE'S ORDERS.

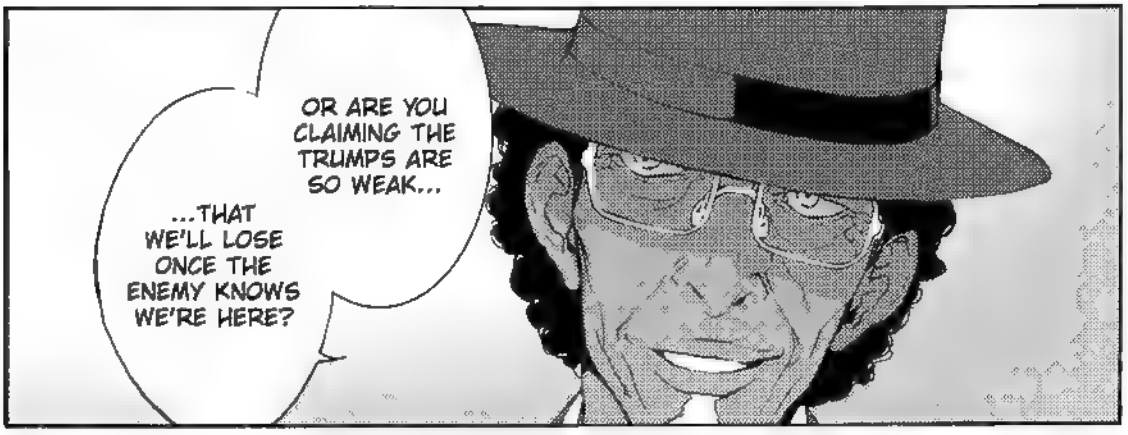
AITOU ACADEMY IS FULL OF LEGENDARY SOLDIERS, NOT JUST THE SAMURAI AND JESUS.
EVEN IF WE ASSAULT AND DEFEAT THEM, THAT WILL NOT GET US TO OUR GOAL.


I AM GOING TO DELIVER A DECLARATION OF WAR.
AFTER THAT, EACH MEMBER MAY EXHIBIT HIS SKILLS AS PLANNED.

...IT'S TRUE THERE'S NO MERIT IN DOING SO...
...SO HOW DO YOU PLAN TO USE THEM?

SO YOU'RE GONNA GO AND MAKE MORE TARGETS?
DON'T YOU GO MAKIN' TROUBLE ON YOUR OWN.
YOU'RE GONNA GET CHEWED OUT.
If we take down Jesus, the Night Gaunts, and Dragon's Gate all at once...
...our value back home will skyrocket.
IT'S JUST ELIMINATING THOSE WHO STAND IN OUR WAY.
I AM NOT IGNORING ORDERS.
I'M CREATING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SELF-PROMOTION BACK IN GALBOA.

...but if our value rises, it will lead to the prestige of our tribes.
Mr. Genie does not seem to be thinking that far ahead...


...THAT WE'LL LOSE ONCE THE ENEMY KNOWS WE'RE HERE?
OR ARE YOU CLAIMING THE TRUMPS ARE SO WEAK...

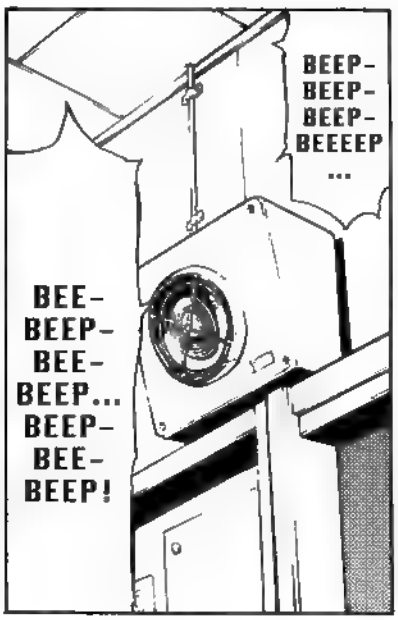
YOU'RE OUR LEADER.
I GET IT, I GET IT.

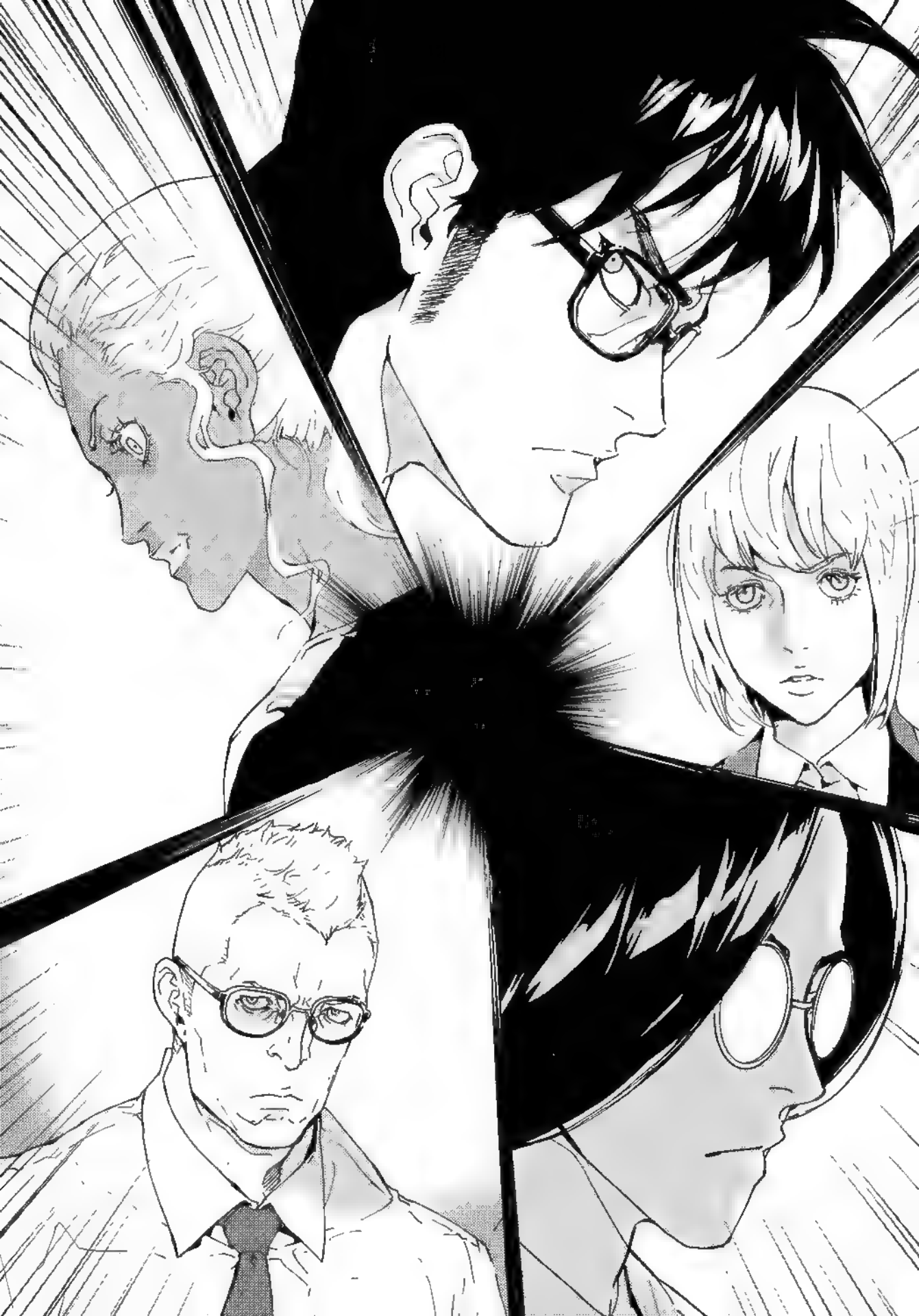
I JUST WANT YOU TO BE AWARE THAT IF WE'RE GOING TO ATTACK AN ENEMY THAT'S ALREADY ON THE LOOKOUT FOR US, THAT'LL ONLY PROLONG THE OPERATION.
WE KILL WHOEVER STANDS IN OUR WAY, TAKE THE GIRL, AND IT'S OVER.
I THOUGHT I'D BE GOING BACK HOME BEFORE NOON.
AS LONG AS YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, SHUT UP AND GET BACK TO YOUR POSITION.
SO...
YEAH, YEAH.

...HOW YOU GONNA SEND THE MESSAGE?

YOU'LL SEE.

BEE-BEE-BEEP-BEEP ...
WHAT'S THAT?
IS IT BUSTED ?
IT'S SO ANNOY-ING...


BEEP-BEEP-BEEP-BEEEEP ...
BEE-BEEP-BEE-BEEP... BEEP-BEE-BEEP!

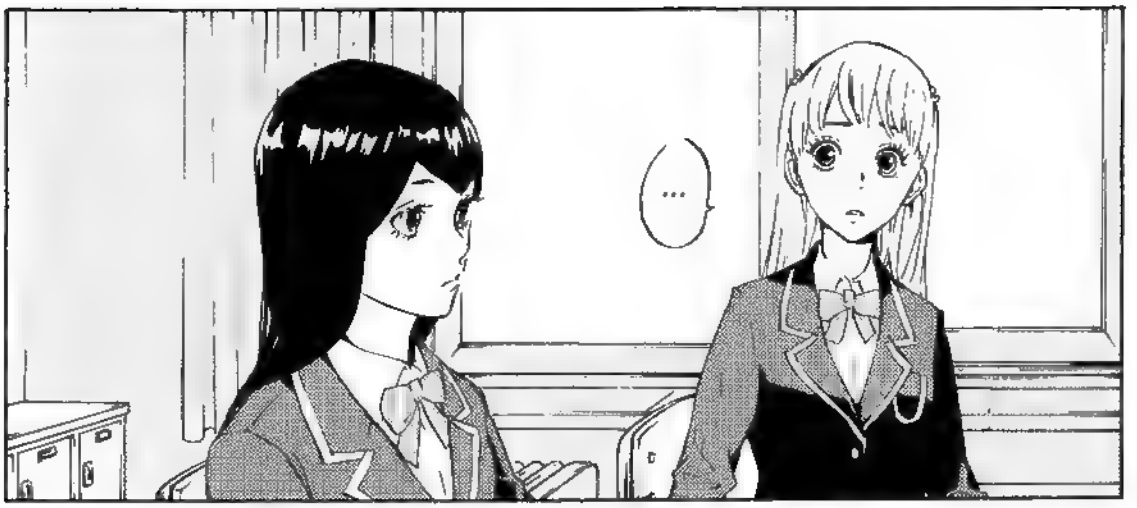


NEVER A DULL MOMENT AROUND HERE.
HEH HEH HEH...
BEEP- BEE- BEE... BEE- BEEP- BEEP... BEEEEP ...
...BUT HOW DID THEY SLIP INTO THE SCHOOL WITHOUT ATTRACTING ATTENTION?
AWFULLY OLD-FASHIONED MEANS OF SENDING A MESSAGE...
BEEP... BEE- BEE- BEE... BEEP...
WHO ARE THE "TRUMPS"? I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THEM.

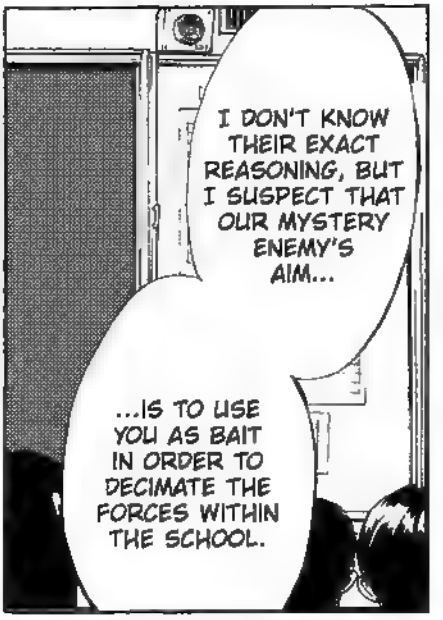
...WHAT IS THIS!?
IT'S MORSE CODE.

BEEP, BEE- BEE- BEEP... BEEP BEEP... BEE- BEEP...
SEVEN WARRIORS
WE ARE THE TRUMPS
WE ARE THE TRUMPS, SEVEN WARRIORS.
WE ARE COMING FOR HARUKA TOOYAMA, A STUDENT AT THIS SCHOOL.

BUT WE ARE PREPARED TO MEET YOUR RESISTANCE WITH DEATH. I REPEAT—
EVERYONE WHO DECODES THIS MESSAGE IS FREE TO INTERFERE.
—


...

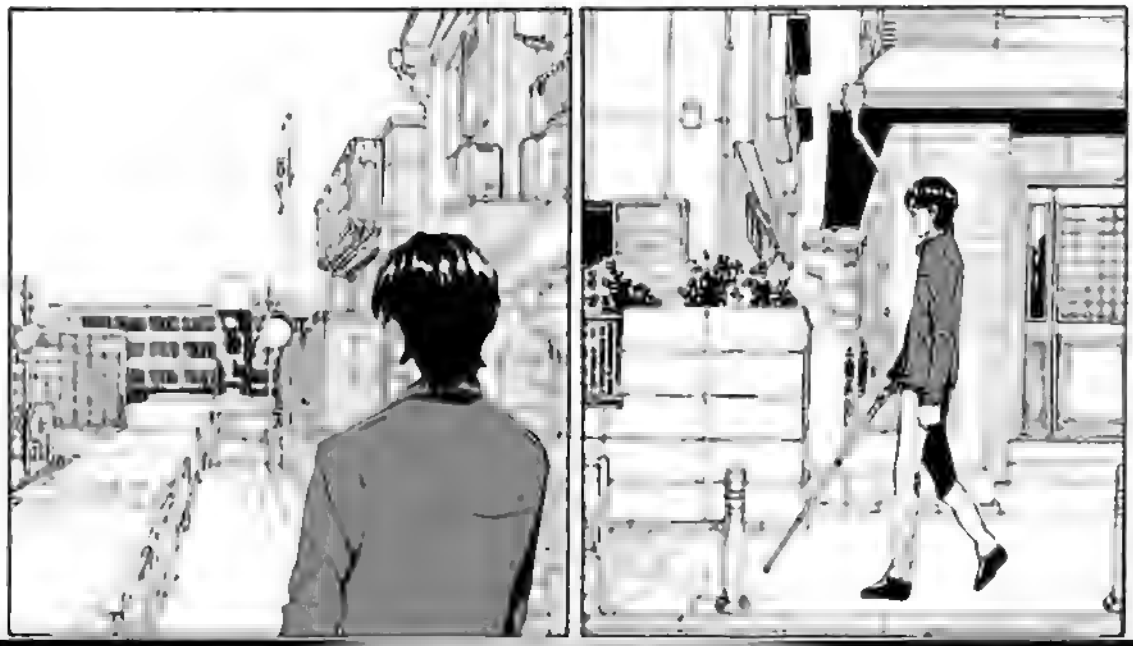
OTHERWISE THERE WOULD BE NO REASON TO ANNOUNCE THEIR ATTACK AHEAD OF TIME.


I DON'T KNOW THEIR EXACT REASONING, BUT I SUSPECT THAT OUR MYSTERY ENEMY'S AIM...
...IS TO USE YOU AS BAIT IN ORDER TO DECIMATE THE FORCES WITHIN THE SCHOOL.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT...!?

...
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
File Edit View Info Help
start
Igawa
online
We got some bad shit goin' down!!
H-hey, man...
PII (BEEP)

THE TIMING'S PERFECT, I JUST WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO DIE WAITING FIRST.
GU (CLUTCH)
HEH HEH...
ABOUT DAMN TIME...
THEIR ATTITUDE IS GOING TO DECIDE OUR ENTIRE COURSE OF ACTION...
FAILURE WILL BLOW BACK ON HARUKA THIS TIME...GOTTA BE CAREFUL.



Until
Death
do us
Part

ZAWA
ZAWA
(MURMUR)
ZZSHK
...
QUIET, EVERY-ONE.
WHY COULDN'T I SEE THIS COMING ...?
I ALWAYS KNOW THESE THINGS AHEAD OF TIME.
BOTH SHE AND SENSEI UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING BUT AREN'T PANICKED.

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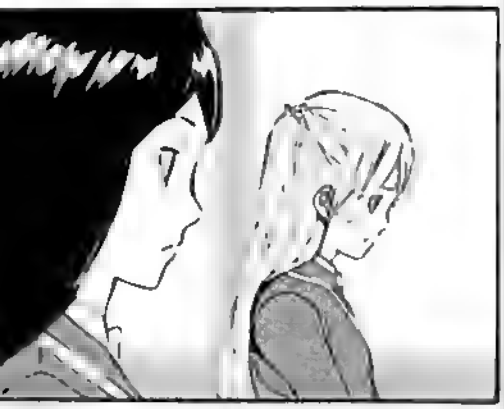
chapter 117



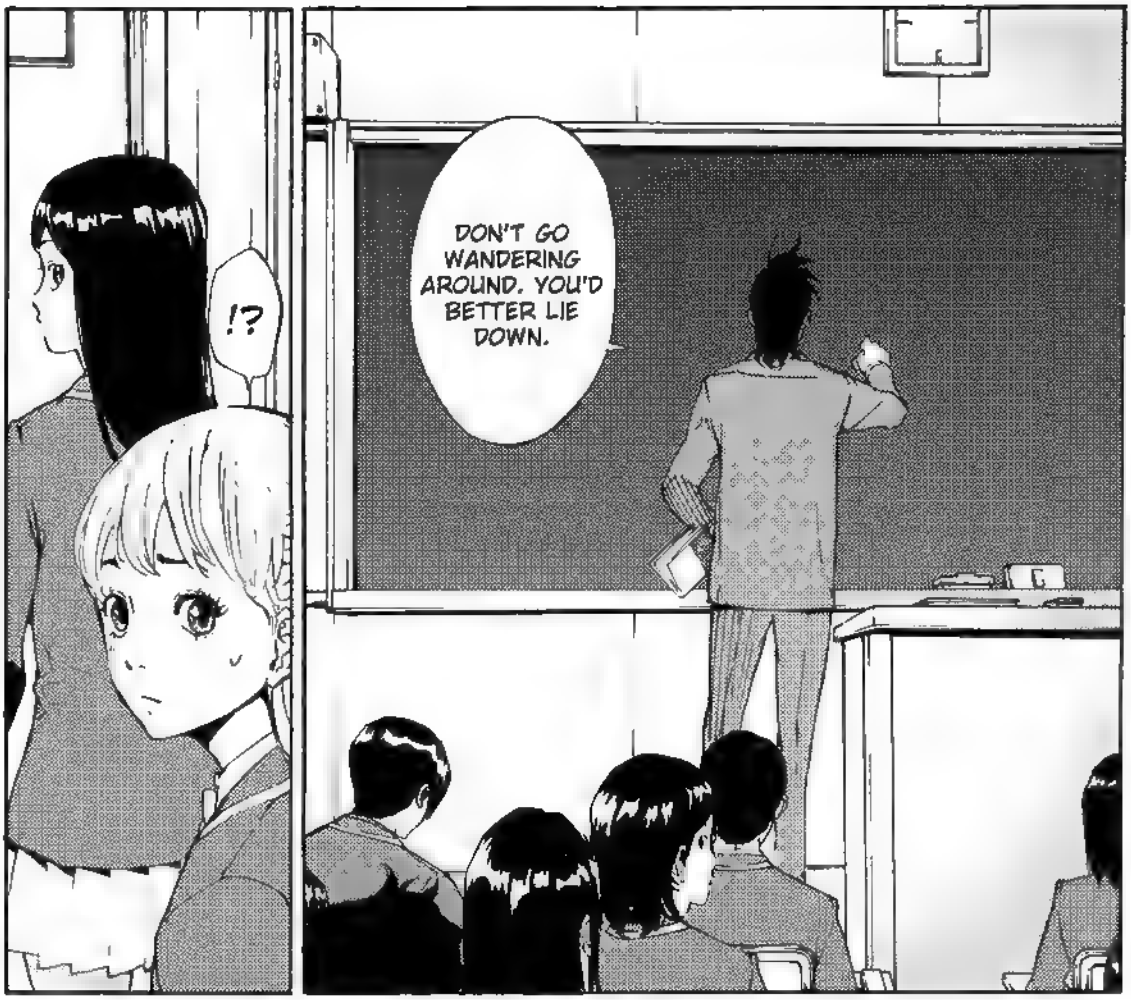
SENSEI!
...YES?
...I SEE...
...
I THINK...
I HAVE A
HEADACHE...

GO AHEAD AND LIE DOWN IN THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE.
THANK YOU.

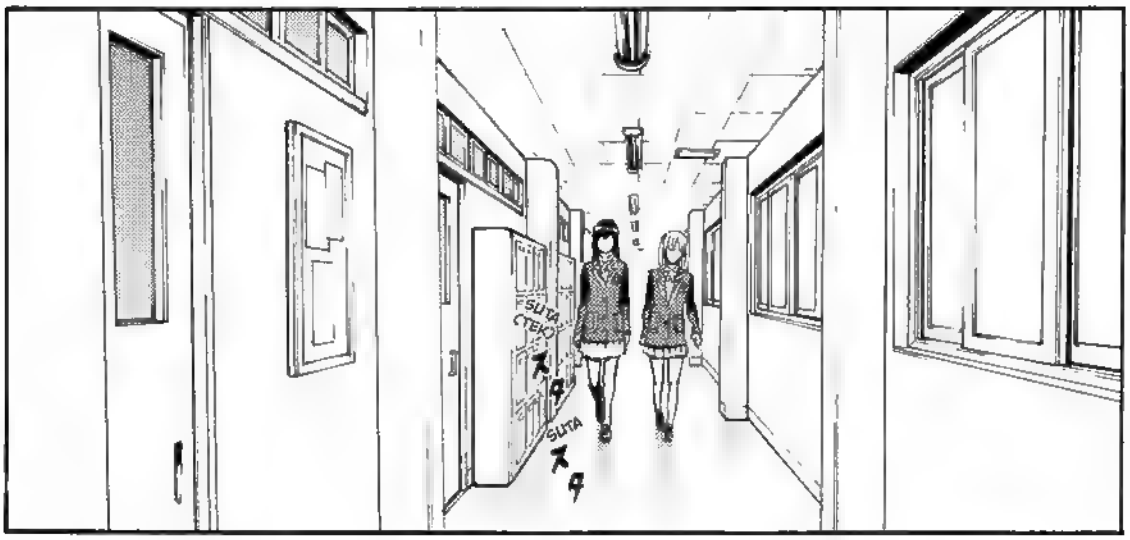
I'LL ESCORT HER.

GATA (THUMP)
?

AH...

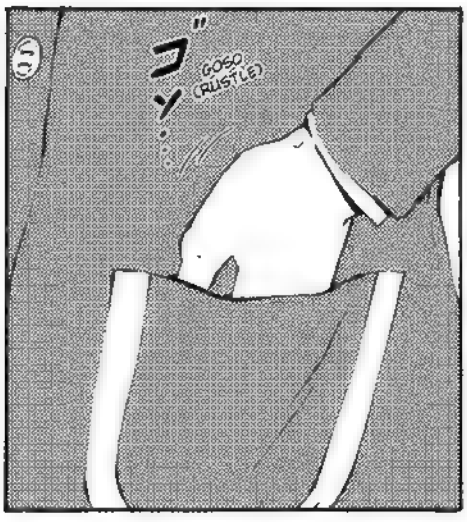

!?
DON'T GO WANDERING AROUND. YOU'D BETTER LIE DOWN.

ガラ
GARA
GSHLINK
YES, SENSEI.


SUTA (TEK)
スタ
SUTA
スタ

...
UM... EXCUSE ME...

UMM...
KITAGAMI-SAN...


GOSO (RUSTLE)

OH, FINE... I THINK I CAN TRUST HER...
YES?
MAMORU'S ALREADY ON THE WAY OVER.
WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE? EXPLAIN IN DETAIL.

AH...
パッ
PA (SNATCH)
NO, TELL HIM NOT TO COME HERE YET.
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
SUTA (TEK)
スタ
SUTA
スタ
...
PLEASE RAISE ALL IN-SCHOOL SENSORS TO THEIR HIGHEST SENSITIVITY. DETECT ALL INTRUDERS AT EARLIEST NOTICE AND INFORM ME IMMEDIATELY.
IF WE DON'T KNOW THE SITUATION DURING CLASS TIME, THE STUDENTS COULD WALK THE HALLS AND FIND THEM-SELVES IN AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS SITUATION.
...

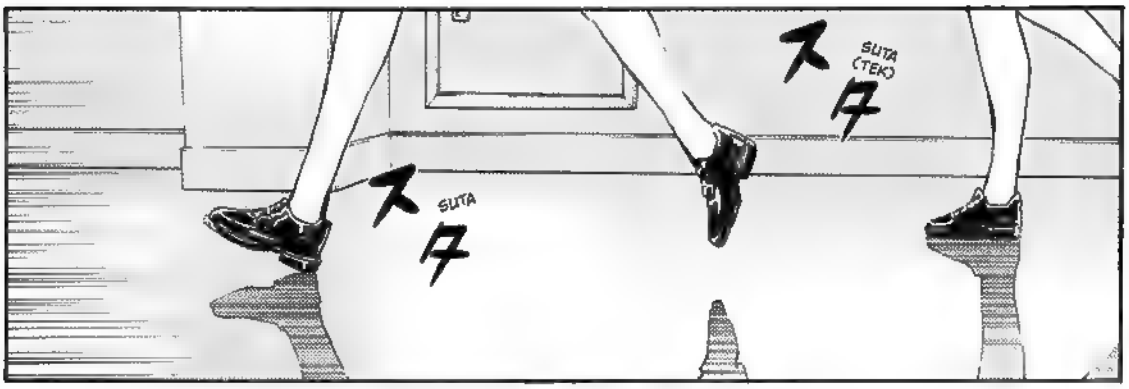
放送室
ガチャッ
GACHA (CLICK)
SIGN: A/V ROOM
…

...SO THEY WON'T BE HIDING IN HERE.
DON'T WORRY. THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A DANGEROUS SPOT, ONE MOST LIKELY TO BE CHECKED FIRST...
NO SIGNS OF ANY TAMPERING ...
カチッ
KACHI (CLICK)
MIC
ON
OFF
LESS
WE MUST ASSUME THEY'RE EXTREMELY CONFIDENT IN THEIR ABILITIES.
THIS SUGGESTS THEY'RE MAKING THE RULES—WE'LL FIGHT BELOW THE SURFACE, WITHOUT CAUSING A STIR.
AS I THOUGHT, THEY CAME ALL THIS WAY TO DELIVER THAT DECLARATION OF WAR...
...AND DID IT IN A WAY SO AS NOT TO DRAW UNDUE ATTENTION.

ZZK-
ZZ...
ZZT...
ZZ-
ZZT-
ZZK.
ZZK-
ZZK-
ZZ...
ZZT-
ZZK...
AND WHO ...
...IS THIS NOW?
ZZT-
ZZK...
ZZSH-
ZZK-
ZT...

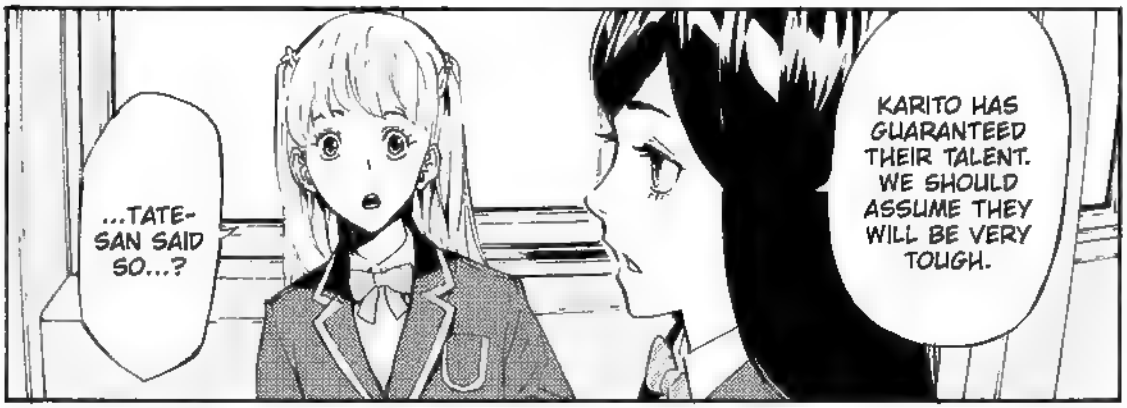
UM, WHAT DID YOU...?
カチッ
KACHI (CLICK)
バタン
BATAN (THUMP)
...
SUTA (TEK)
スタ
SUTA
スタ
HEY...

KARA (RATTLE)
カラ
KURU (SPIN)
...FINAL TARGET SPOTTED.

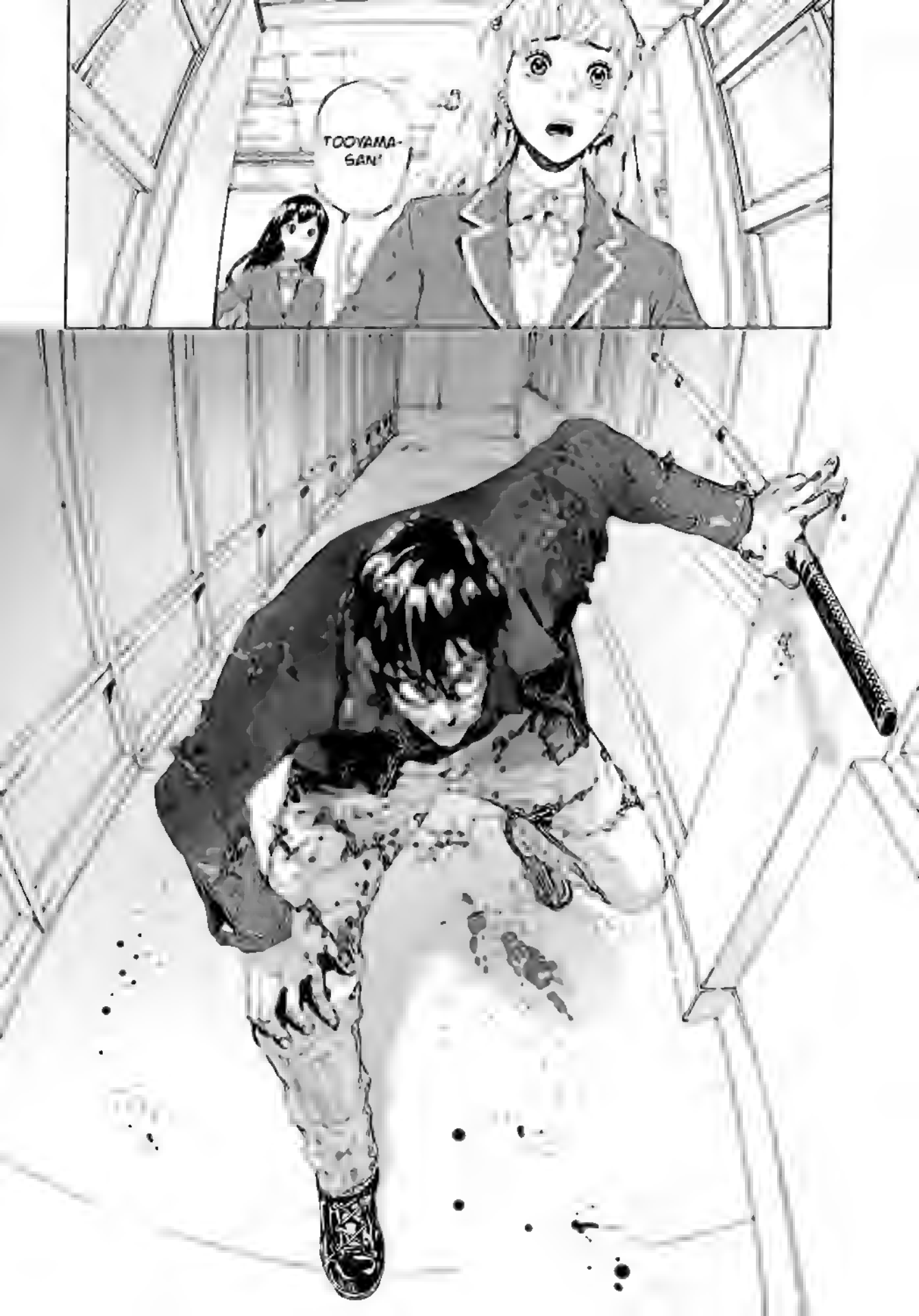

スタ
SUTA
スタ
SUTA
(TEK)

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT...?

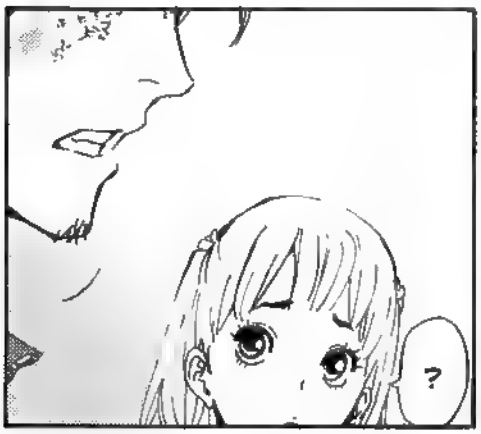
BASED ON THE TIMING, I SUSPECT OUR ASSAILANTS ARE GALBOA'S BLACK UNIT.
THEY WON'T BE AS EASY AS THE OPPONENTS BEFORE THIS.


KARITO HAS GUARANTEED THEIR TALENT. WE SHOULD ASSUME THEY WILL BE VERY TOUGH.
...TATE-SAN SAID SO...?

I'M ANNA RIDDLE, KARITO TATE'S PARTNER.
I KNOW YOU VERY WELL. THE NETWORK TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.
HA (GASP)
DA
TOOYAMA-SAN!?
DA (CRASH)


TOOYAMA-
SAN!

...I'M ALL RIGHT...
MAMORU-SAN!
COME... LET'S GET YOU TO THE INFIRMARY.
WHO COULD HAVE DONE THIS TO HIM...?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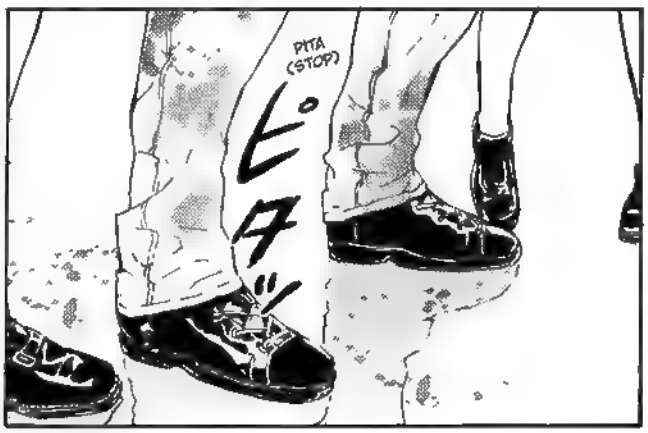
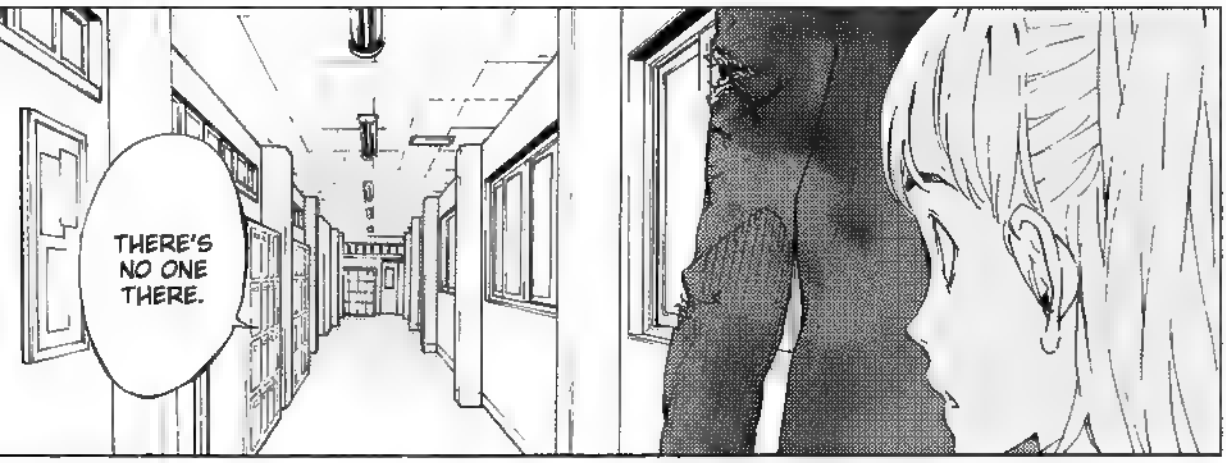

PITA
(STOP)
ピタ

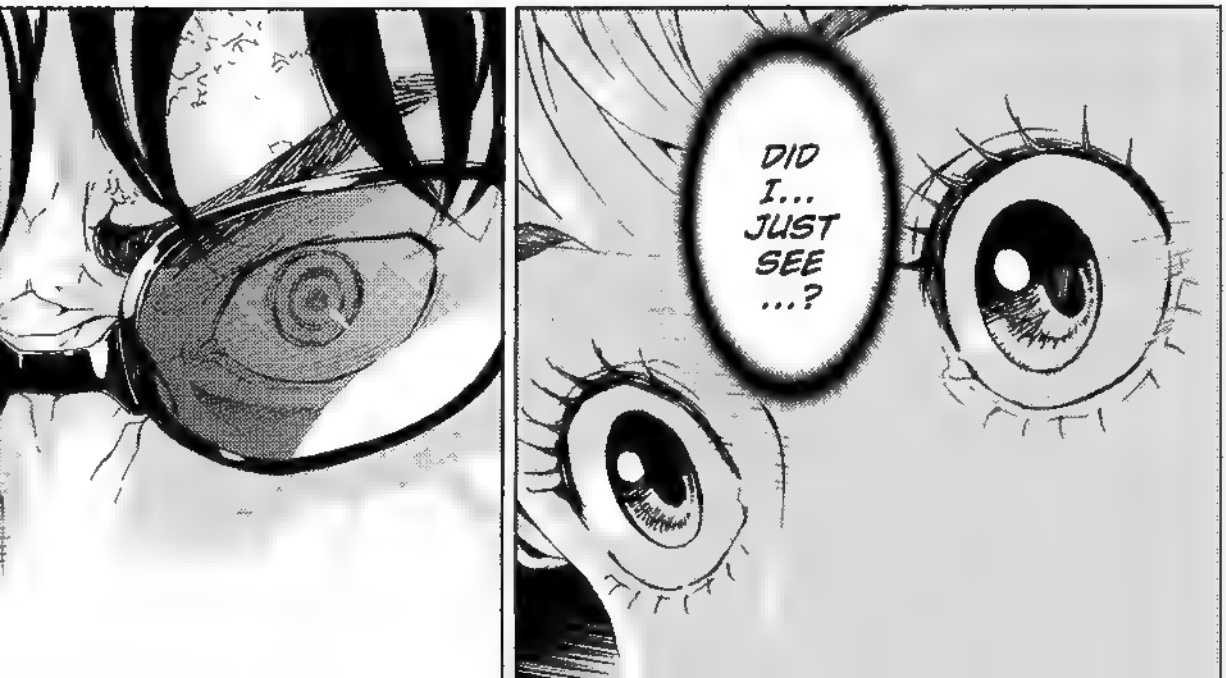
STAY BACK...

SU
(SWD
スッ
WHAT'S WRONG!?

UM...
NO...
NOTHING ...
THERE'S AN ENEMY HERE... CAN'T YOU SEE THEM?


THERE'S NO ONE THERE.

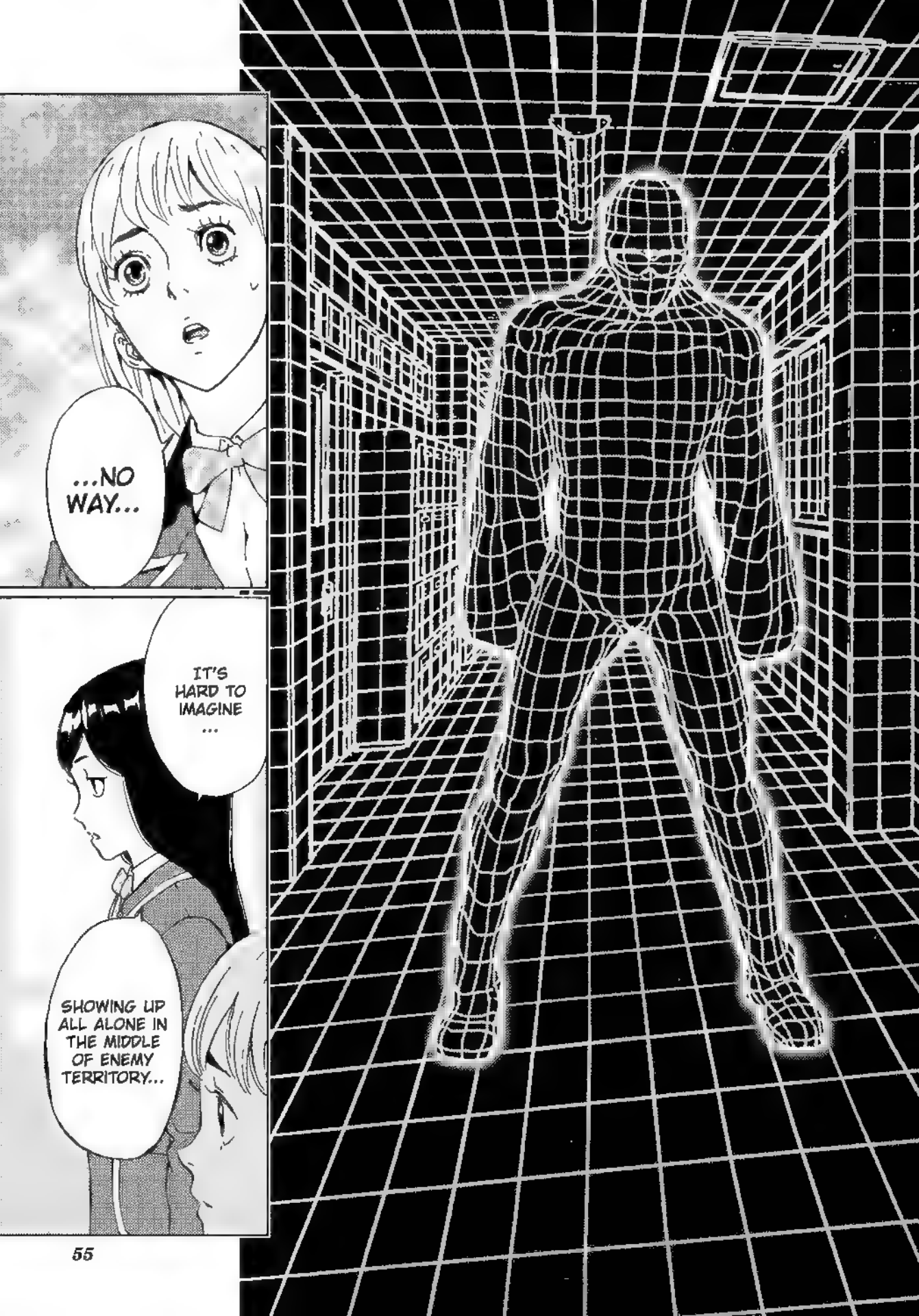
KIRA (GLINT)
!?


DID I... JUST SEE ...?

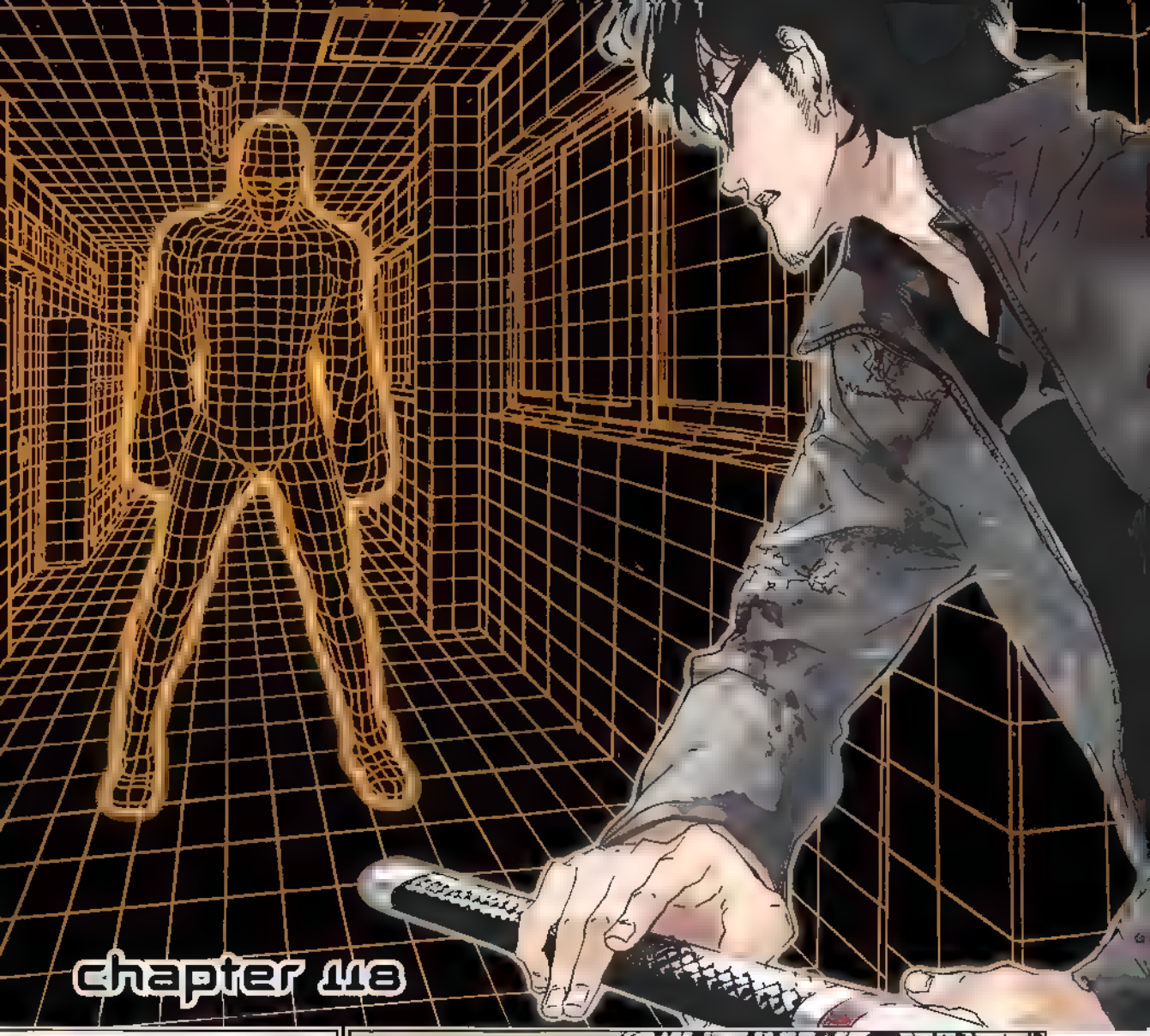
...NO WAY...

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE ...

SHOWING UP ALL ALONE IN THE MIDDLE OF ENEMY TERRITORY...


...NO WAY...
IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE ...
SHOWING UP ALL ALONE IN THE MIDDLE OF ENEMY TERRITORY...

JIRI (TSST)
IF YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO IGNORE BASIC PRINCIPLES, YOU DON'T NEED TO FOLLOW THE RULES.
THAT'S HOW TOUGH THIS ENEMY'S GOING TO BE.
I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE... DO YOUR WORST!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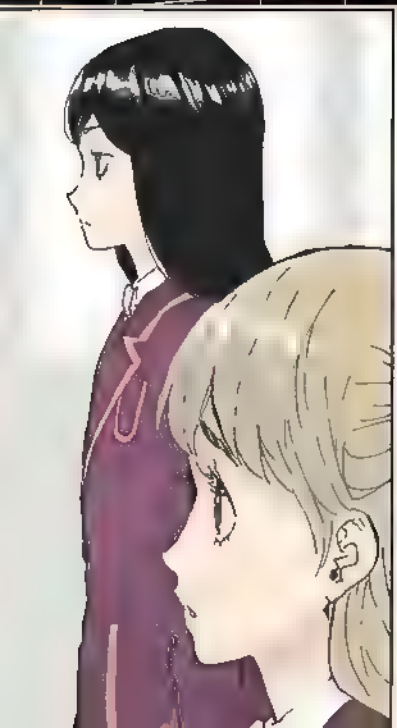

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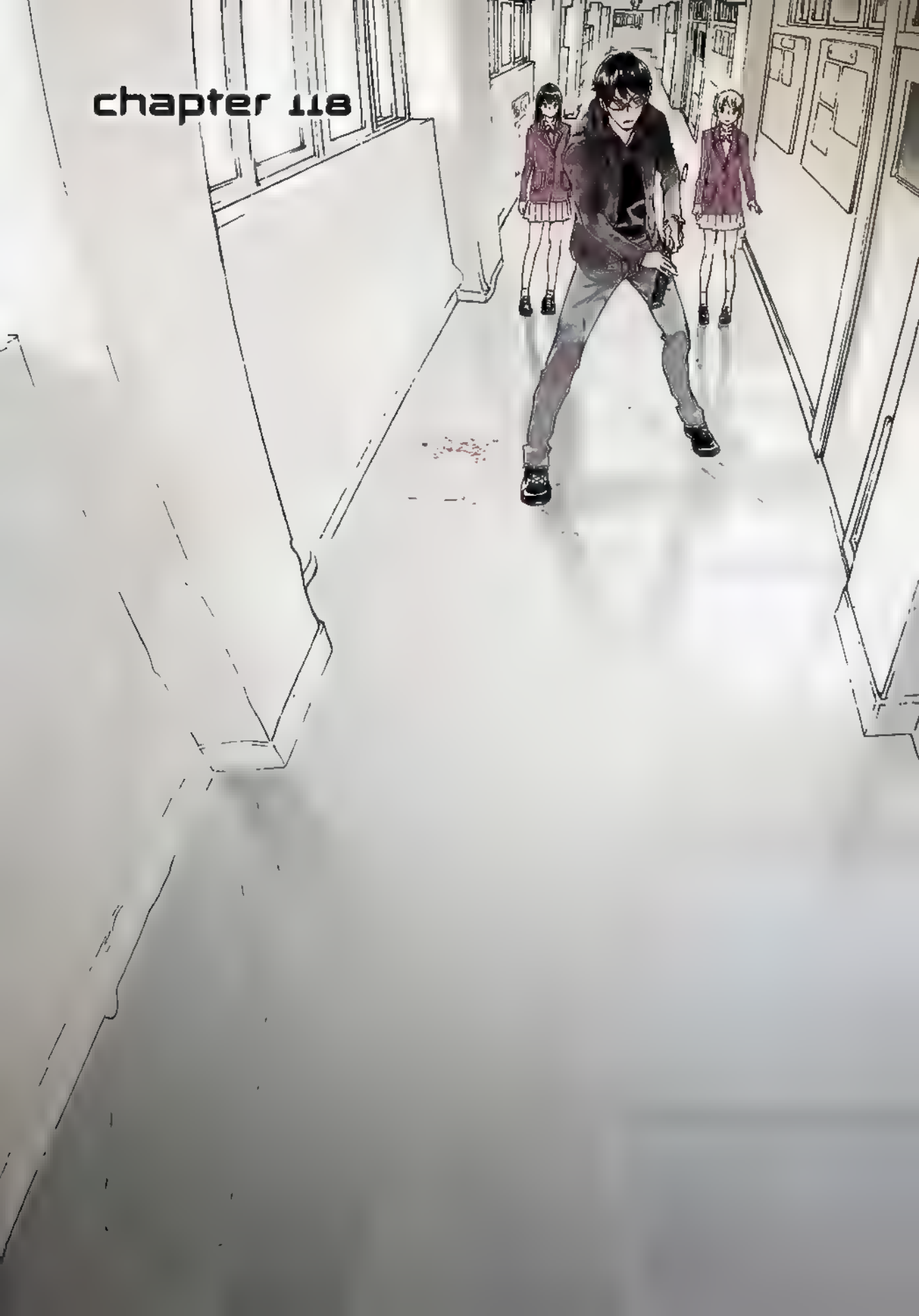
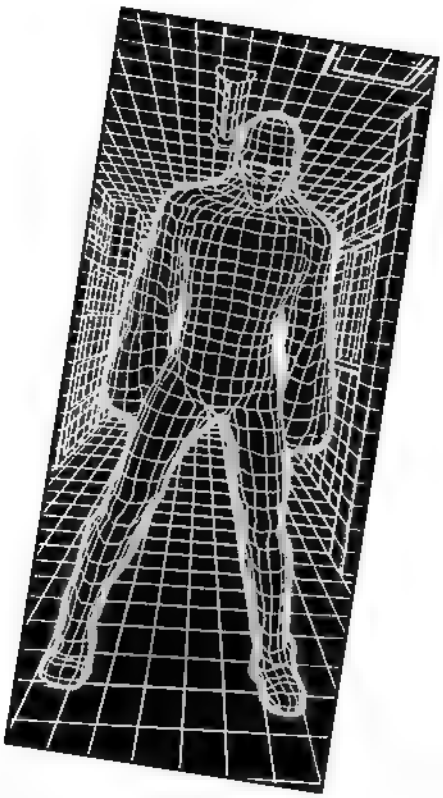
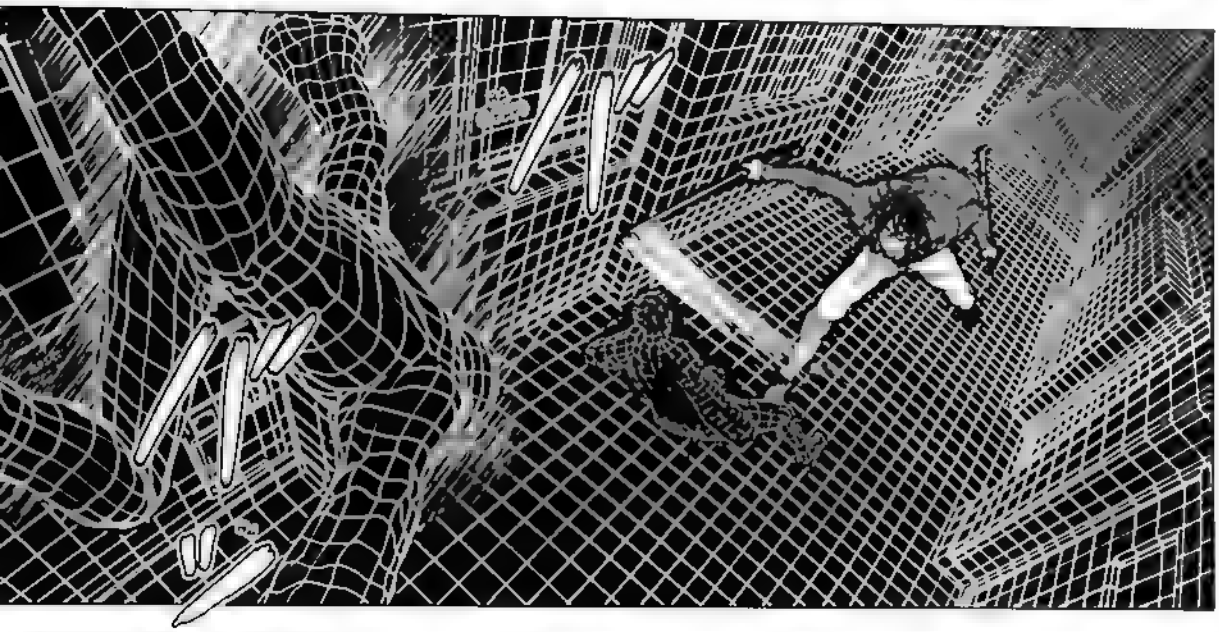
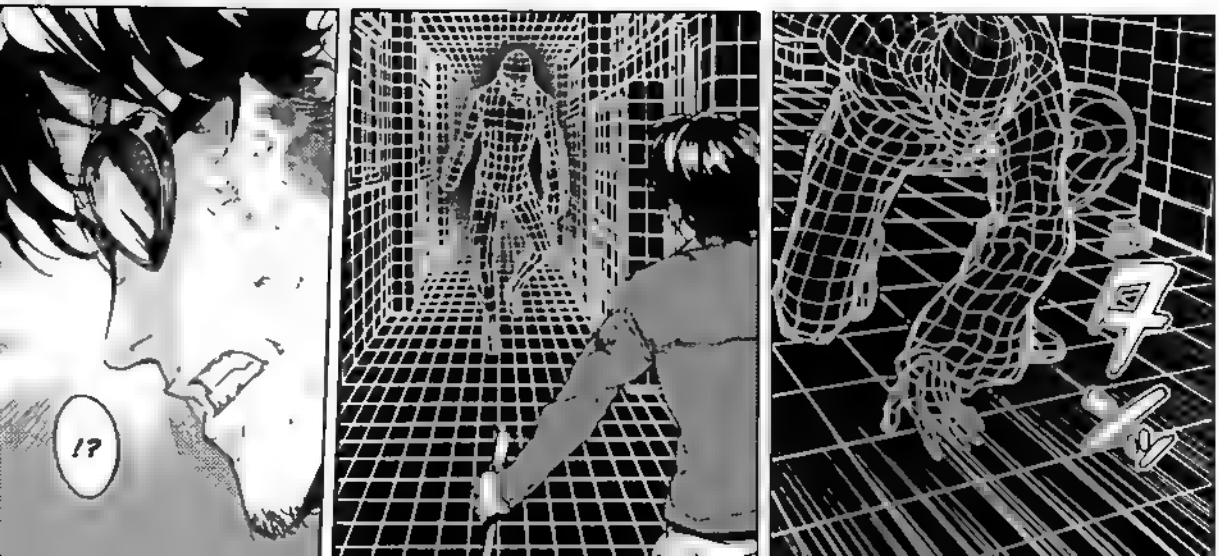
chapter 118

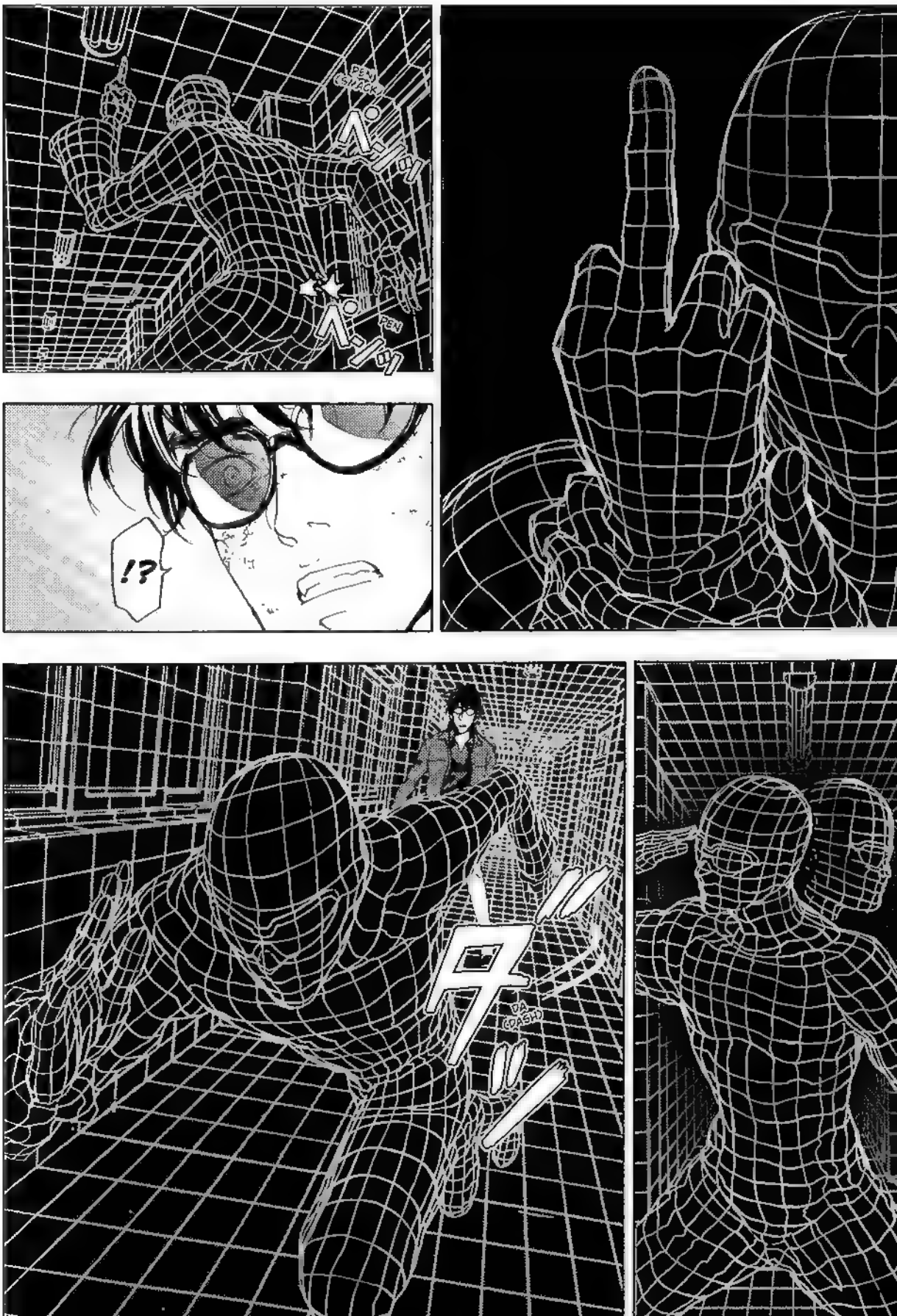


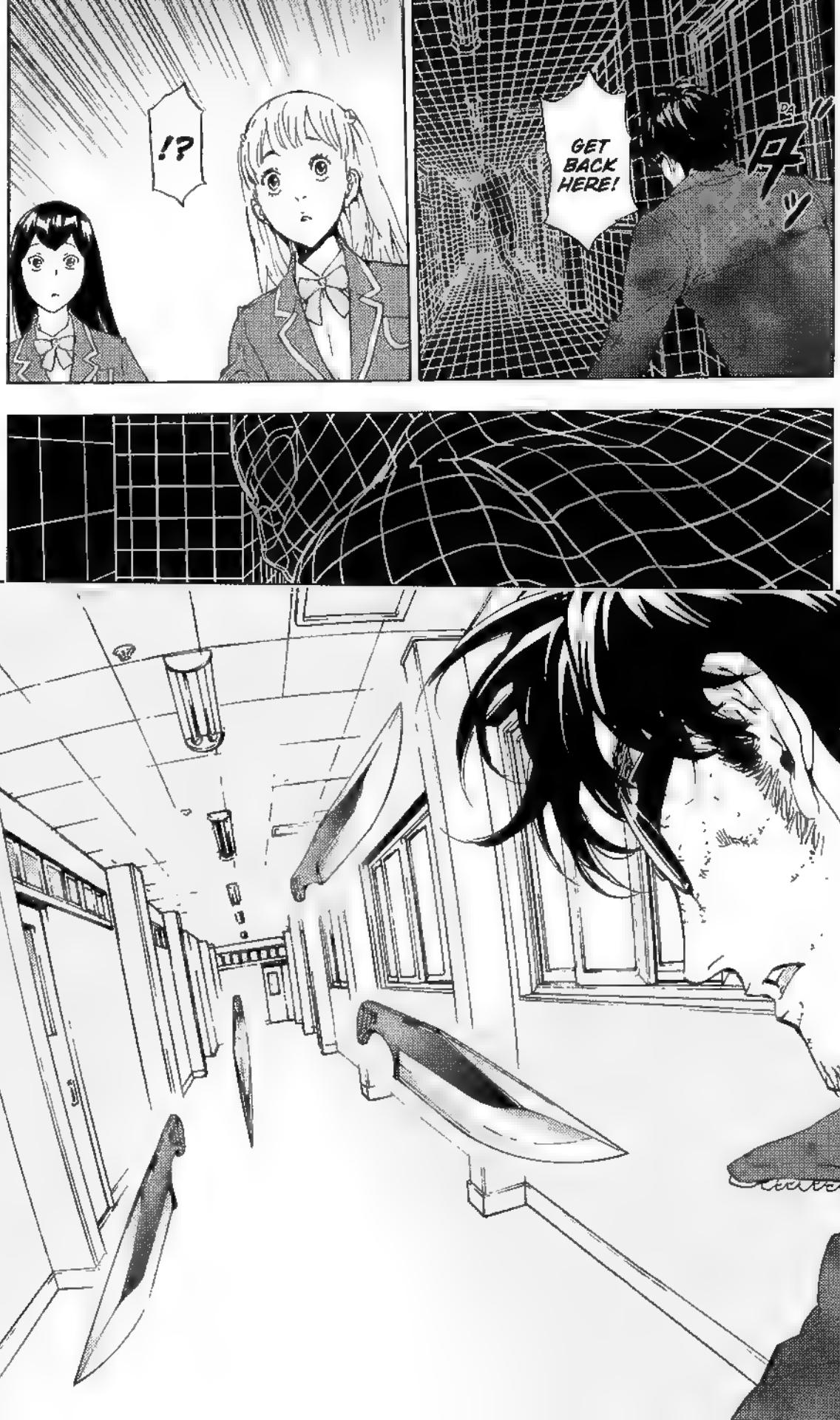
JIRI
(PAUSE)
JIRI
SU
(SHH)
DA!
(DSHH)



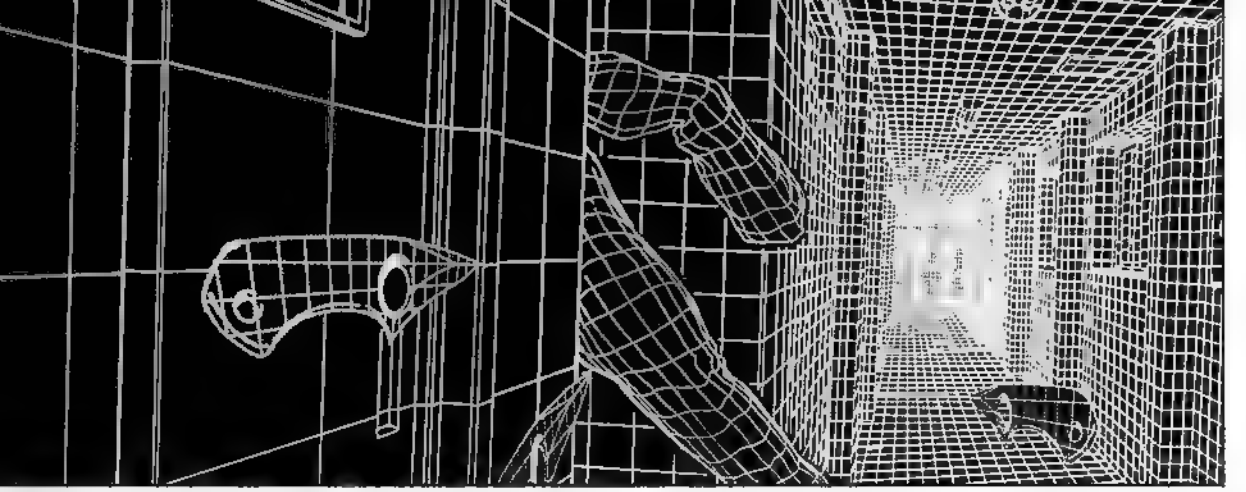


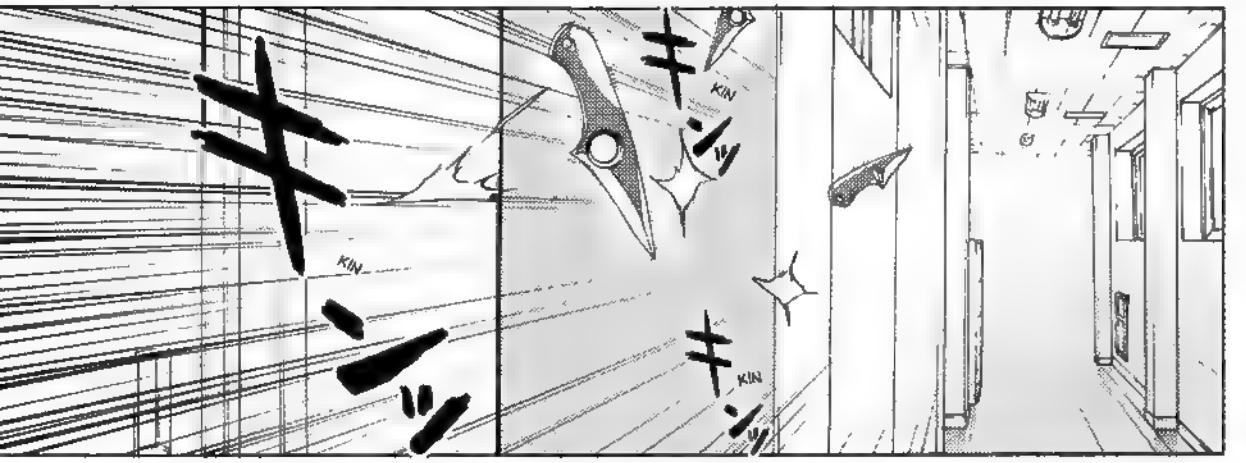



PEN
(ATTACK)
ペン
ペン
PEN
!?
DA
(DASH)


!?
GET BACK HERE!
ダッ

KIN
KIN
KIN
(K-TWANG)
KIN
KAN
(CLACK)
KAN
HYUSA
(SWOOSH)




KIN
KIN
KIN

MAMORU-SAN!?
RRGH ...
GAKU (SHWUP)
SHIT!

...THEN I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN STOP HIM.
FAILED TO TAKE HIM DOWN...
THIS IS BAD NEWS. IF HE CAN'T BE SEEN BY THE NAKED EYE...
NO.
LET'S GET YOU TO THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE.
I'M NOT STUPID ENOUGH TO JUMP FROM THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE.

SO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT MONSTER, WHOEVER YOU ARE?
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YIJIAN LIU, I THINK HE'S PERFECTLY SAFE.
!?
DON'T ACT LIKE THAT.
EVEN HE OR JESUS WILL HAVE TROUBLE AGAINST A FOE THEY CAN'T SEE!
I SEE. BUT STILL, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN STOP THAT INVISIBLE MAN.

DON'T BE CRAZY!
HE DOESN'T JUST RELY ON THE INVISIBILITY. HE UNDERSTANDS STEALTH AS WELL.
DID YOU FINISH HIM OFF!?
SENSEI ...!?
I SLIPPED AWAY BY SAYING I'D COME CHECK ON YOU.

WITHOUT ANY CLEAR AND OBVIOUS ACTIONS, THERE WAS NO WAY TO DETECT HIS LOCATION.
GAVE ME THE DAMN CHILLS.

THEY'RE CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO BE EASY, BASED ON THE WAY THEY'RE COMING RIGHT AT US.
I'M SURE THE OTHERS MUST BE—

VERY CLEVER OF THEM TO HAVE AN INVISIBLE SCOUT ANNOUNCE HIS PRESENCE BEFORE THEY ACTED.
THEY COULD KILL UNRELATED STUDENTS AT ANY MOMENT. IT FORCES US TO PLAY BY THEIR TERMS.

JUST AS TOUGH AS HIM.
AND THEY HAVE HIGHLY CUSTOMIZED WEAPONS AND GEAR.

WATCH OUT. THEY HAVE A SNIPER WITH A SOUND SUPPRESSOR.
A COMMON-SENSE ARRANGEMENT. THE INVISIBLE ONE IS THE PROBLEM. HOW DO WE—?
YOU ALREADY FOUGHT THEM?
VICTORY WILL DEPEND ON HOW WE RESPOND TO UNEXPECTED ATTACKS.
I SUSPECT THAT MUST BE "METAMATERIAL."

HMM.
VERY SHARP OF YOU, ANNA RIDDLE.
!?
!?
TRUST ME, I'M AWARE OF WHAT THAT BASTARD'S UP TO.
YOU KNEW?
SO...?
AND OBVIOUSLY THE OTHER GIRL THERE'S NOT GOING TO KNOW A RELIC OF THE LAST CENTURY LIKE MORSE CODE.

WHY ARE THEY AFTER HARUKA TOOYAMA?
TELL ME— THIS IS CRUCIAL.
KNOWING THAT WILL CHANGE THE WAY WE DEFEND AGAINST THEM.
...

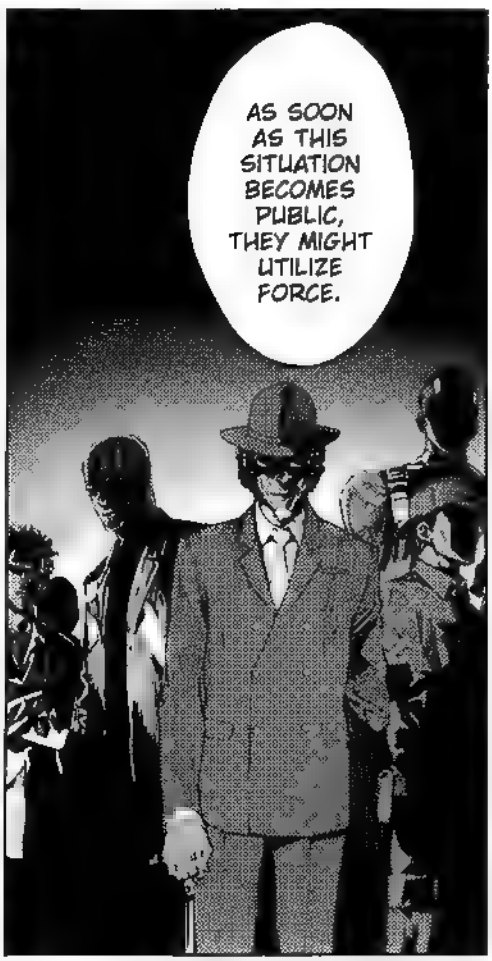
UH... UMM...
DON'T SAY A WORD!
...
...NO. CAN'T...
...WELL... THEY MUST HAVE THEIR REASONS...
...

PERHAPS YOU'VE HEARD THE REASONS FROM DAIBA, BUT I WANT YOU TO FOLLOW MY LEAD HERE.
...
THINKING ABOUT THE REST OF HER LIFE AHEAD, THIS IS NOT SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE REVEALED RIGHT NOW
...

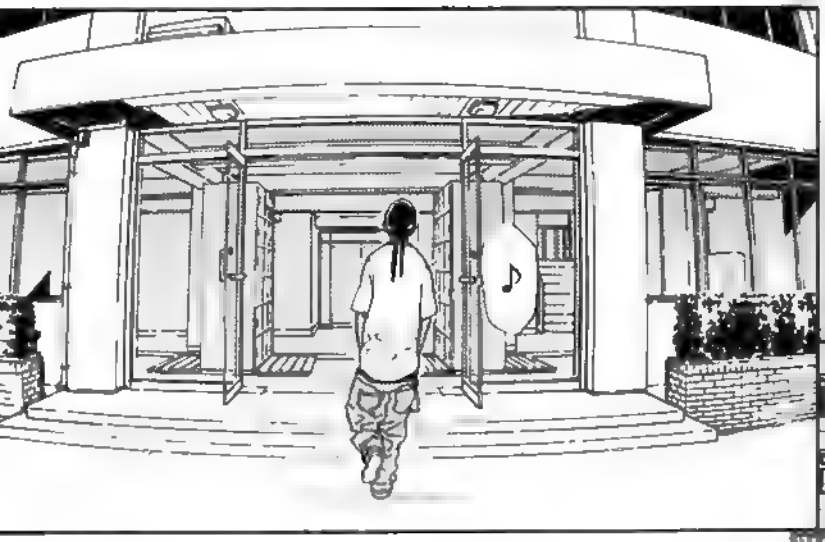
WELL, WHAT'S THE PLAN!?
IF WE JUST WAIT FOR CLASS TO GET OUT, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE PANIC IN THE SCHOOL.

...

TSK... FINE, DO WHAT-EVER...


AS SOON AS THIS SITUATION BECOMES PUBLIC, THEY MIGHT UTILIZE FORCE.

WHY DID I NOT KNOW THE ENEMY WAS GOING TO ATTACK? I ALWAYS SEE THESE THINGS...



chapter 119

THIS IS A WARNING. THE SCHOOL IS CURRENTLY UNDER THE PROTECTION OF 24.
YOU TRUMPS ARE FREE TO GO AFTER THIS BOUNTIED GIRL IF YOU WANT, BUT YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH OUR PLANS.
BUT THIS AIN'T GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH YOU.
JUST LOOK THE OTHER WAY FOR A LITTLE BIT, AND YOU WON'T SUFFER FOR IT.
SOUNDS LIKE BULLSHIT...

YOU KNOW THE RULES, RIGHT?
EVERYONE WITHIN THE SCHOOL DOES.
VERY WELL... I RECOGNIZE YOUR CHALLENGE AS A HOSTILE MOVE AGAINST THE NIGHT GAUNTS.
WHICH MEANS YOU DESIRE TO FIGHT THIS OUT VERY QUIETLY, WITHOUT DRAWING NOTICE, CORRECT? WE WELCOME THIS.
MAKE THIS PUBLIC, AND THE POLICE AND OTHER GROUPS WILL GET INVOLVED, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF YOU ACHIEVING YOUR GOAL BECOMES HARDER.
BA (ZIP)
YOU WELCOME IT? DUMB-ASS.

GA
GA
GA
(WHAK)

ZUPA
(SLICE)
BI
(ZWIP)
HE'S GOOD! A BODY THAT SIZE, AND NOT EVEN THE SOUND OF A FOOTFALL.
THIS ONE'S AN EXPERT IN SILENT KILLING!

BUO (WHOOSH)
BUO
DOGA (THWAM)
ZUSAZAZA (ZZSH)

SEEMS LIKE THE LEADER OF THE NIGHT GAUNTS AIN'T JUST FOR SHOW.
!?
BUT CAN A MAN SO SERIOUS ABOUT HIS KILLING HANDLE THIS!?

保健室
SIGN: INFIRMARY
WHY DIDN'T I KNOW AHEAD OF TIME...?
HRG ...!

...WHAT'S WRONG?
I WAS JUST WONDERING WHAT KIND OF WEAPON COULD PRODUCE WOUNDS LIKE THIS.
...
KENSUKE ITOU... OR SHOULD I SAY...

...
YIJIAN LIU, LEADER OF THE CHINESE MAFIA "DRAGON'S GATE," THE GREATEST KILLER IN HIS ORG.
WHY WOULD YOU BE INFILTRATING A PLACE LIKE THIS!?
IS THIS "KING'S INHERITANCE" REALLY THAT GREAT?

I CANNOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION...
...
YOU SEEM TO BE GETTING ALONG FINE. WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE ENEMIES?
JUST LIKE YOU CAN'T SAY YOUR REASONS FOR BEING HERE, RIGHT!?
...A GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT BETWEEN KILLERS...?
WE'RE NOT ALLIES. BUT THERE'S A PACT OF NON-AGGRESSION WITHIN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS.

"THE ENEMY OF MY ENEMY IS MY FRIEND."
THE SAYING FOR THIS WORKS IN JAPANESE TOO, RIGHT?
UMM, THE ENEMY OF...
...
AHH, THAT'S RIGHT.
VERY SHARP OF YOU, ANNA RIDDLE.
...
...
I DUNNO...
SO WHO'S THE GUY ...
...WHO MANAGED TO DO THIS TO SOMEONE AS DEADLY AS YOU?

I COULDN'T SEE IT COMING AT ALL.

>>FIRING POINT
ZUKYUUN (KPUWN?)
ズキューン
ZUKYUN
ズキューン
ZUKYUN
ズキューン
ZUKYUN
ズキューン

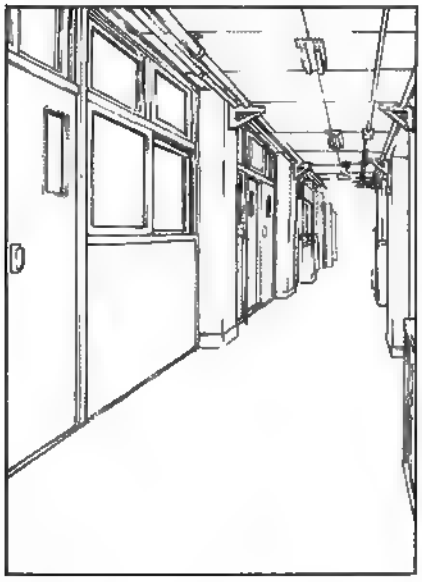
ZUSYUN
GAH!!
!?

HE HERDED ME RIGHT TO YOU...
...I SEE...
♪

WHAT... DID YOU JUST...?

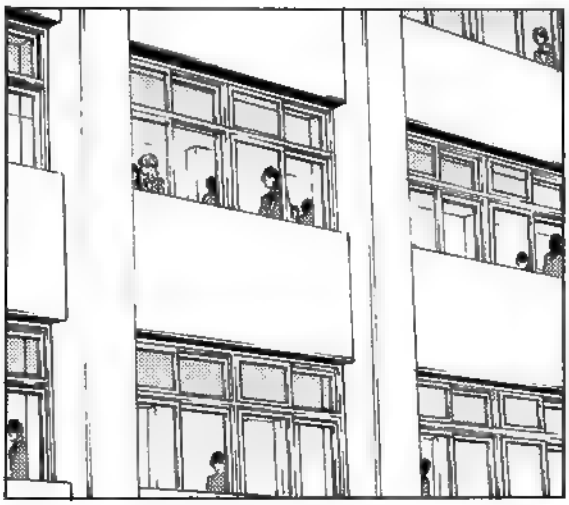
SUGARUU (SUGARU)
I'LL CUT YOU UP JUST LIKE I DID THAT SAMURAI.
...WHAT... THE HELL ...!?

DING-
DONG
...
!?
DING-
DONG
...



...

TSK!



GAYA
GAYA
GAYA

I NEVER SAW IT...
...WHAT IS HIS WEAPON ...?
Zt!
Well? Did you take care of him, N'Sinh?

UPHOLD THEM. THAT'S AN ORDER...
THESE BOXING RULES ARE A PAIN IN THE ASS.
NAH... RAN OUTTA TIME AT THE LAST SECOND, ZELM.
EVEN ACCOUNTING FOR LUCK ON HIS SIDE, I COULDN'T FINISH THAT GUY OFF.
BUT THEY AIN'T GONNA BE AS EASY AS SHIEDABRA SAYS...

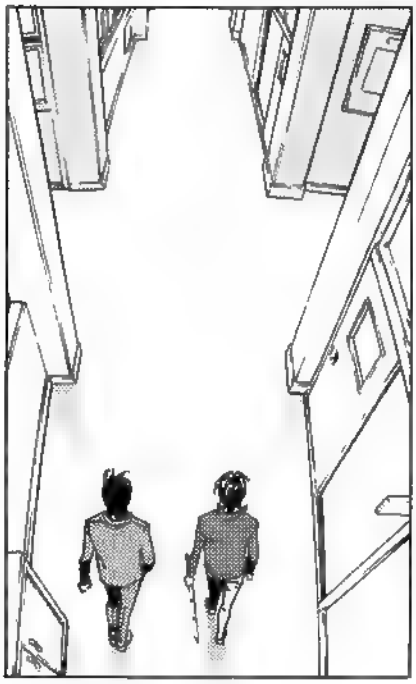
IF I GOTTA DO A REMATCH, THE SAMURAI SUITS ME BETTER.
HOLD DOWN THE FORT HERE.
YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL ME.
BREAK'S OVER.
MY NEXT PERIOD'S OPEN.
THIS IS MY WORK OFFICE.

BELL JUST RANG FOR THE SECOND ROUND.
MAMORU-SAN!?
GATA (THUMP)
HE'S LIKE A FIGHTING DOG...
...

GIVEN THAT THEY ANNOUNCED THE RULES FIRST, I'D ASSUME THEY'LL KEEP TO THEM AS LONG AS THEIR BACKS AREN'T AGAINST THE WALL...

I'M NOT GOING TO RELY ON IT.

BUT HOW LONG WILL THAT BE TRUE?



WHEN THEIR LIVES ARE ON THE LINE, THEY WON'T FOLLOW THEIR PLAYGROUND RULES.
WHEN WE GO FOR THE KILL, WE DO IT QUICK AND THOROUGH.

...!

AAH...

chapter 120
RGH
...

DON'T... CALL HER...
IS THIS THE BEST THE TIGER'S DISCIPLE CAN DO!?
...THE "TIGER" !!

WHOA-HO!

WHAT A SHAME... YOU CAN'T TELL THAT SORT OF COUNTER WON'T WORK ON ME UNTIL WE ACTUALLY SPAR IN PERSON!?
BATA (FLOP)
BATA

GAH!

ENOUGH OF THAT.

?
OH...IT'S YOU...
I DON'T REMEMBER TRAINING YOU TO TOY WITH THE WEAK.
カチャリ
ALL RIGHT.

I'LL FINISH HER OFF.

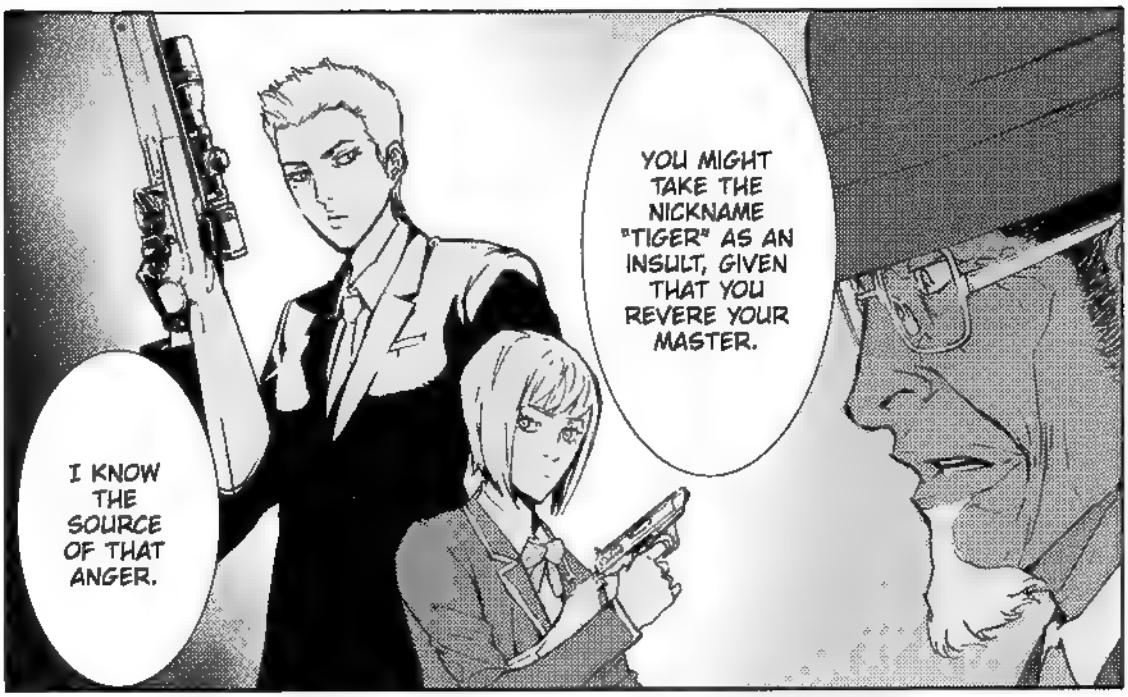
NO—WAIT. LEAVE THE GIRL AND GO AFTER THE PROPER TARGET.

GA (GAKU)

WHO ARE YOU TALKING BACK TO?
JUST LET HER GO?
YOU SURE?
HE MUST BE THE LEADER, THEN...
LIKE I SAID BEFORE, AS LONG AS YOU'VE GOT A POINT FOR ALL OF THIS, I WON'T FIGHT BACK.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT...
PAH... BOSSY PRICK.

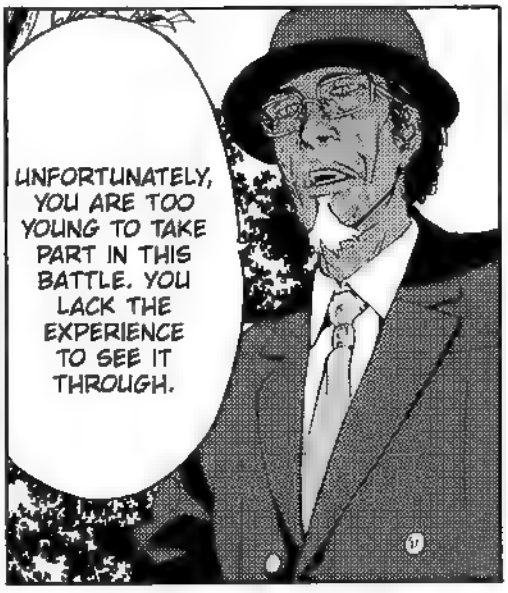
BA
(FLIP)
BA
DON
(SHOVE)
GO.
YEAH,
YEAH.
BA
CHA
(CHIKK)

!?
WHEN DID HE ...?
YOU ARE NOT SO INFERIOR TO THE OTHERS FROM A TECHNICAL STANDPOINT.
YOU HAVE BEEN TRAINED VERY WELL.
... GUH ...
DO NOT BE HASTY, TIGER'S DISCIPLE.


YOU MIGHT TAKE THE NICKNAME "TIGER" AS AN INSULT, GIVEN THAT YOU REVERE YOUR MASTER.
I KNOW THE SOURCE OF THAT ANGER.

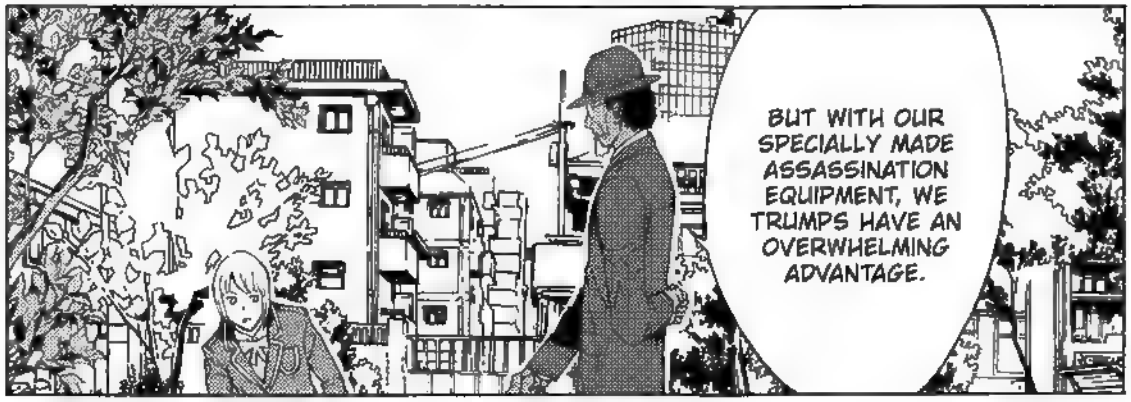
BUT USING THAT ANGER AS YOUR FUEL WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD YOU TO DEATH.

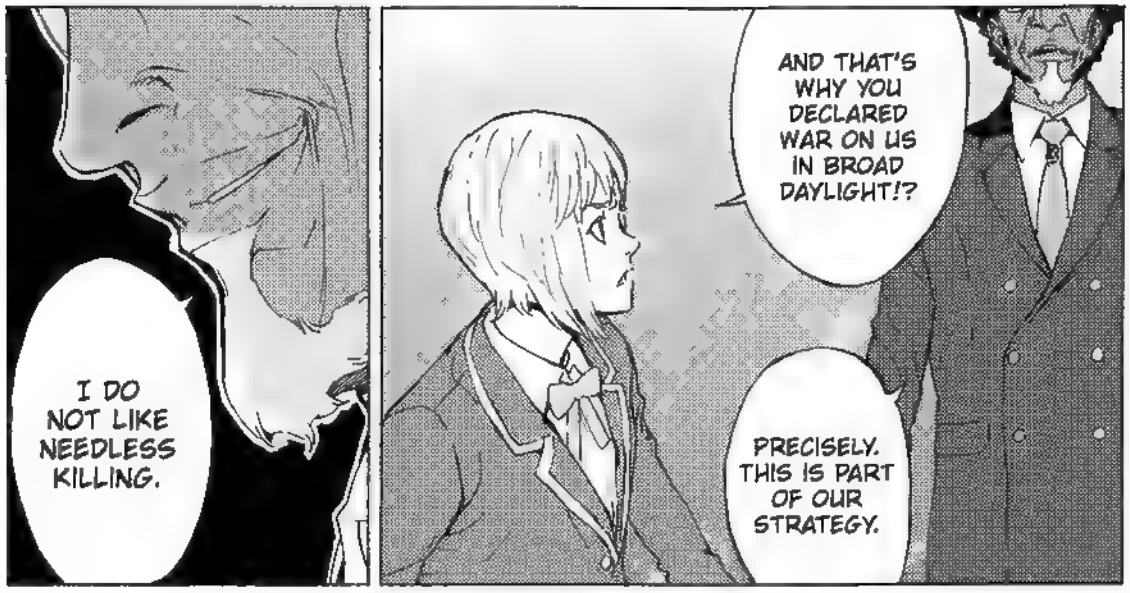
UNDER-ESTIMATE THEM OR JESUS...
...AND YOU'LL VERY SOON REGRET IT.


UNFORTUNATELY, YOU ARE TOO YOUNG TO TAKE PART IN THIS BATTLE. YOU LACK THE EXPERIENCE TO SEE IT THROUGH.

VICTORY WILL COME DOWN TO FORTUNE AND COMPATIBILITY.
THAT MAKES NO SENSE. EVEN IF WE UNDERESTIMATE THEM, WE ARE TOO WELL TRAINED TO LET THAT KILL US.
WE ARE ALL ON A SUFFICIENT LEVEL TO FIGHT EQUALLY AGAINST JESUS, THE SAMURAI, EVEN KAIZER.
...COMPAT-IBILITY?
AND THE MAN YOU SAW JUST NOW WILL EASILY CRUSH JESUS UNDER THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES.
A SNIPER HAS AN OVER-WHELMING ADVANTAGE AGAINST THE SAMURAI.

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE GOOD OR BAD FORTUNE OF THE DRAW, AND ONE'S OWN INNATE LUCK TO OVERCOME THE ODDS.
IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE WEAPON OF CHOICE AND FIGHTING STYLE OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

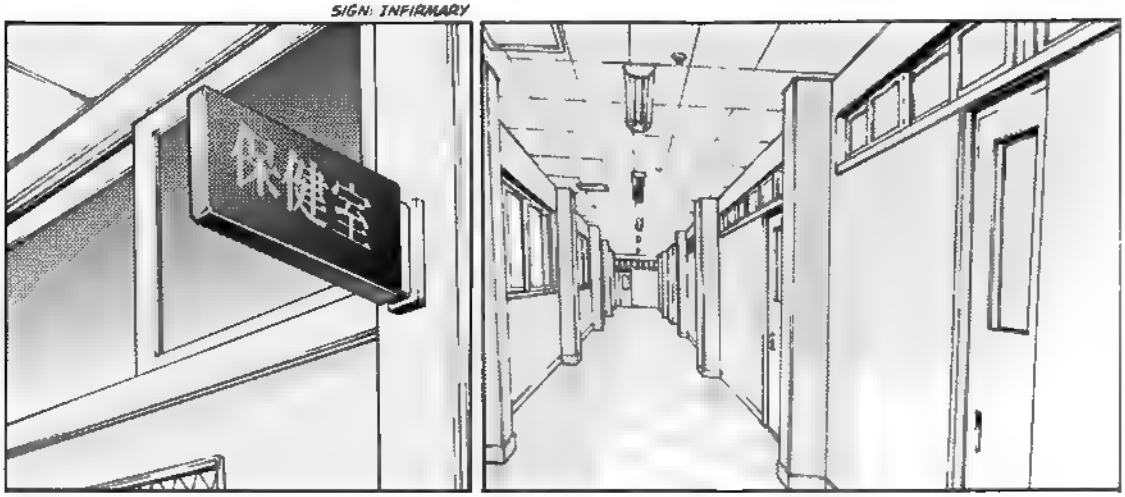

BUT WITH OUR SPECIALLY MADE ASSASSINATION EQUIPMENT, WE TRUMPS HAVE AN OVERWHELMING ADVANTAGE.


I DO NOT LIKE NEEDLESS KILLING.
AND THAT'S WHY YOU DECLARED WAR ON US IN BROAD DAYLIGHT!?
PRECISELY. THIS IS PART OF OUR STRATEGY.

BUT IF NECESSARY, I AM PREPARED TO KILL EVERY STUDENT IN THIS SCHOOL AS LONG AS WE GET OUR TARGET.
OUR BATTLE REQUIRES WITNESSES.
WHY WOULD YOU TELL ME THIS?

IN ORDER FOR EVERYTHING TO BE SEEN AND THE TRUTH OF OUR VICTORY TO BE KNOWN AMONG THE UNDERWORLD...
I AM GIVING YOU THAT PRIVILEGE.
IN FACT... OF ALL THE DENIZENS OF THE HIDDEN WORLD HERE, ONLY YOU HAVE THAT RIGHT!!
!?

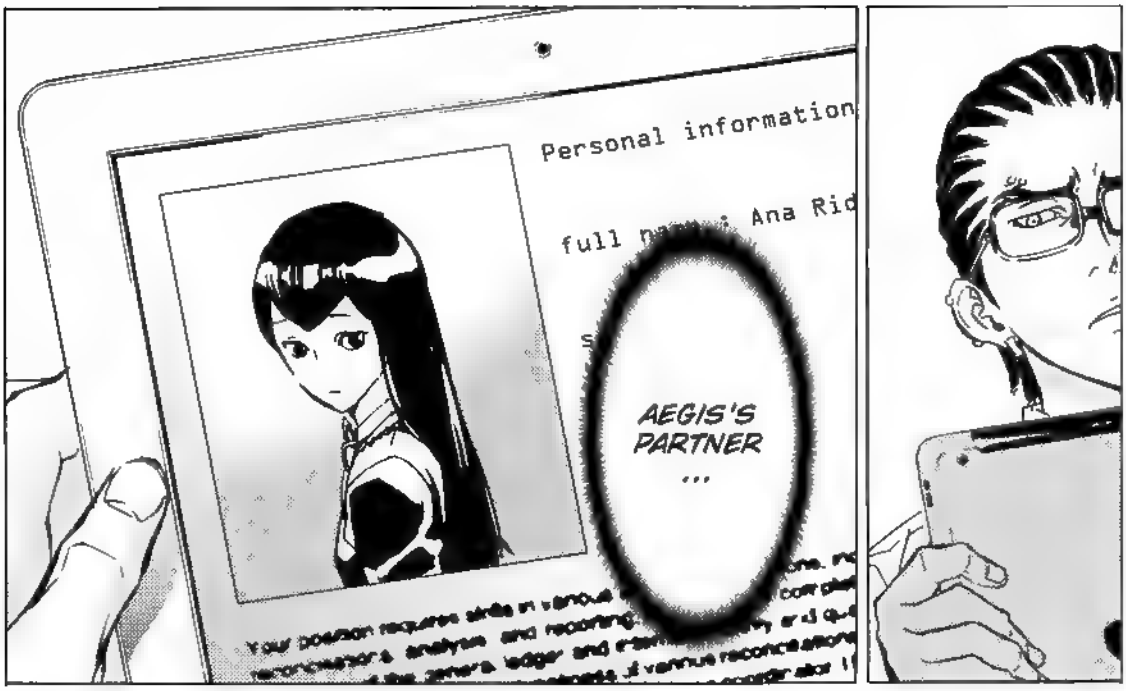
SIGN: INFIRMARY



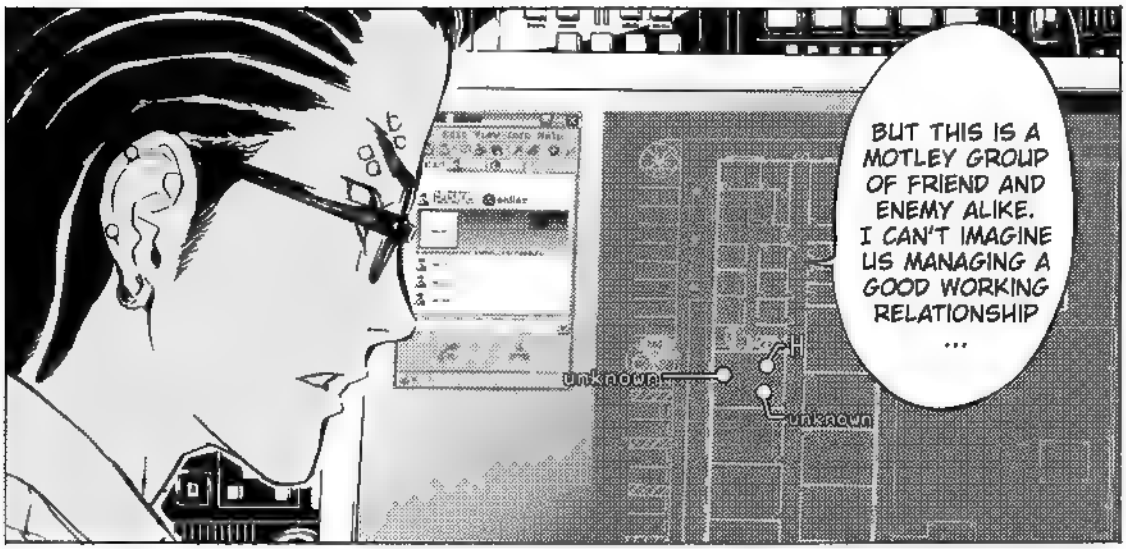
HUH?
I'M GOING TO USE THIS PLACE AS AN INFORMATION CENTER.
BE MY GUEST.

THEN PLEASE USE THAT.
YES...
YOU HAVE SOME OTHER MEANS OF COMMUNICATING ASIDE FROM THIS EARPIECE, RIGHT?
HUH?

OUR ROLE IS TO DETECT AND INTERPRET THE ENEMY'S PLOT TO INVADE.
WE MUST PROVIDE THOSE ON THE DEFENSE WITH THE INFORMATION THEY NEED TO FIGHT ON EQUAL GROUND.
JESUS CREATED THIS THREE-SIDED STANDOFF AT THIS SCHOOL, AND THE ENEMY HAS FLIPPED IT ON ITS HEAD WITH STRATEGY AND INDIVIDUAL SKILL.
THIS WILL NOT BE SIMPLE.
IF WE DON'T, EVERYONE WILL DIE, AND YOU WILL FALL INTO THEIR HANDS.
UM...
YEAH... BUT AREN'T YOU—?
Did you hear all of that?


Personal information
AEGIS'S PARTNER
...

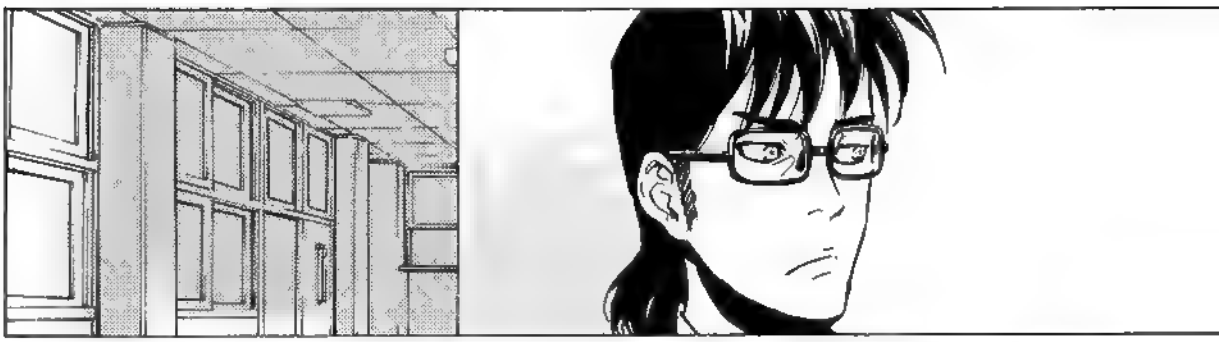
TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF VICTORY AGAINST THIS FOE, WE MUST EXHIBIT GOOD TEAMWORK.


BUT THIS IS A MOTLEY GROUP OF FRIEND AND ENEMY ALIKE. I CAN'T IMAGINE US MANAGING A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP ...
unknown
unknown

?
?
YOU WILL NOT NEED TO FORCE YOURSELF TO COOPERATE.
AS LONG AS WE ULTIMATELY WORK AS A TEAM, IT WILL LEAD TO VICTORY FOR CERTAIN.

...SHOW YOURSELF ...
YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN PASS THAT SHODDY WORK OFF AS STEALTH?
スッ
SU (SHH)

HEH HEH.
THE GRAND PRIZE, AS IT HAPPENS.
ガチャ
GACHA CLICK
LOOKS LIKE I PICKED A WINNER.
HEH HEH.
...



BA
(WHOOSH)

HYU
(SWISH)

FOUND YA.
I THINK YOU'RE MISTAKEN...

I FOUND YOU!
LET'S GET STARTED!

Until
Death
do us
Part

ALL THESE GUYS USE MYSTERY WEAPONS...
THAT'S TOUGH ENOUGH ON ITS OWN, BUT THEY'RE ALSO HARDENED SOLDIERS WHO KNOW HOW TO USE THEM...

chapter 121

NU CLOOND
ヌッ
KO KO KO
コ ツ
コ ツ
KO KO KO
コ ツ

...
MIND MOVING? I'VE GOT A CLASS TO GET TO.
UNLIKE ELECTIVES TEACHERS, WE CORE CURRICULUM TEACHERS ARE BUSY!
YOU'RE FROM DUHANA, AREN'T YOU?
THERE WAS A MEDDLESOME INFORMER WHO SHOWED UP RIGHT AFTER YOUR CHALLENGE ...
...AND FILLED US IN ON THE DETAILS.
UNLIKE KAIZER, THE GROUP'S REPUTATION MEANS NOTHING TO ME.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF FIGHTING YOU PEOPLE. THERE'S NOTHING IN IT FOR ME.
IN FACT, IF YOU CAN TAKE OUT JESUS...
...I'LL BE HAPPY TO BE FREED FROM THIS PAIN-IN-THE-ASS ASSIGN-MENT.
SU (SHH)

THE BLACK UNIT'S ALL THE BEST BLACK SOLDIERS FROM BACK THERE, RIGHT?
SO EVEN WITH YOUR SKILL, YOU'RE SINGLED OUT BY DISCRIMI-NATION.
BUT IF YOU'RE COMING AFTER ME, THAT'S A DIFFERENT STORY.
HEY, WHATEVER HAPPENS TO THE SAMURAI AND THE GIRL ISN'T MY PROBLEM.
IF HE WON'T EVEN ATTACK ME FROM BEHIND, THEY MUST REALLY WANT TO AVOID UNNECESSARY CONFLICT.
AWFULLY PRIMITIVE PLACE.

ドスッ
ガッ
GA (THUMP)
BA (BOOM)

WHAT !?
YOU'RE AS GOOD AS THE RUMORS SAY...
...BUT NOT BETTER!!
SU (SHH)

YOU GOTTA CHECK OUT THIS SPECIAL HIGH-TECH COUNTER-WEIGHT.
HYUN (SWISH)
FUNNA (SFWUFF)
C'MON, JESUS, LET'S PLAY.
BO (VOOM)

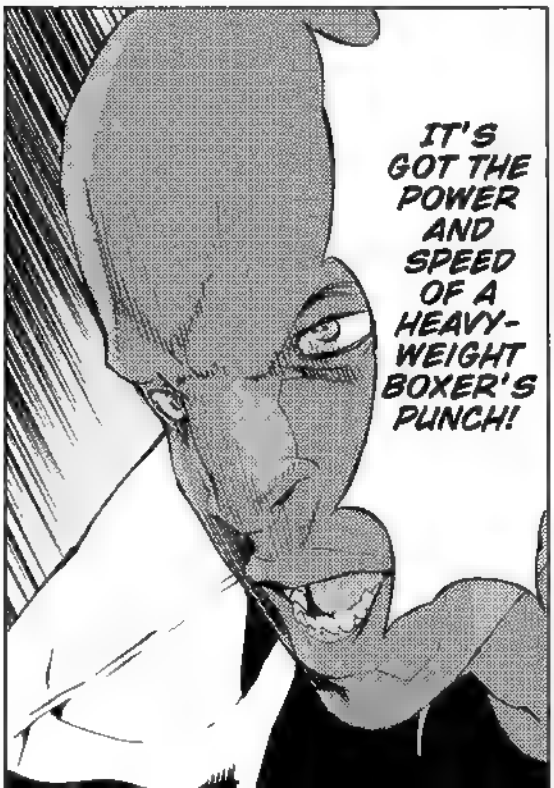
YOU CAN'T STOP ME WITH THESE CHEAP TRICKS ...
DOSU (THWUD)

PORO
(PLUNK)
ポロ
WHAT THE HELL ...?
HOW IS THAT THING MOVING?
TA
(TAK)
PASHI
(SNATCH)
PON
(BOING)

HITS SOMETHING SOFT, ALL OF THAT ENERGY TRANSFERS TO THE TARGET.
HITS SOMETHING HARD, IT BOUNCES BACK AT HIGHER SPEED.

WHAT DID I TELL YOU? IT'S HIGH-TECH MATERIAL.

HYU (SWISH)


IT'S GOT THE POWER AND SPEED OF A HEAVY-WEIGHT BOXER'S PUNCH!

TAN (TAK)
TAN
TAN
TAN
TAN
TAN

DO (BOOM)
DO
DO
DUG (THUD)

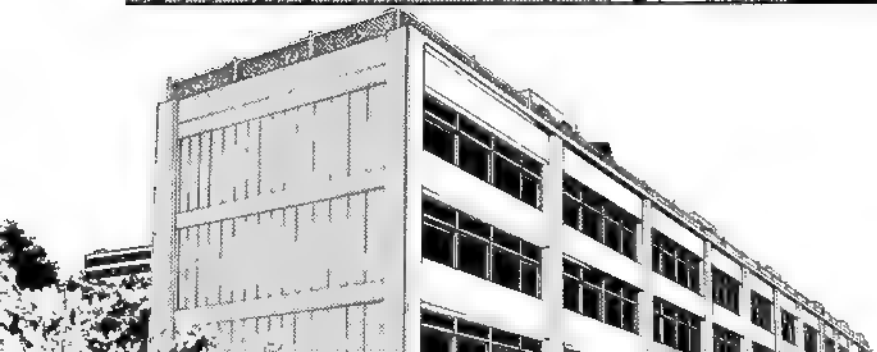
DON'T GET COCKY, ASSHOLE ...
HUMAN REFLEXES CAN'T CATCH UP TO THIS BABY!!

...DAMN!!
BASHI (SHWAP)
THE HUMAN ARM CAN'T ABSORB THAT KIND OF FORCE!!
TAN (TAK)
TAN
KIN (TING)
GO AHEAD AND DANCE UNTIL YOU DIE, SUCKER!!
DOSU (THUMP)
DOSU
DOSU
DOSU

THEN AGAIN, IF THE STUDENTS COME TO SEE WHAT THAT GUNSHOT SOUND IS...
...THEY'LL PROBABLY ALL END UP DEAD.

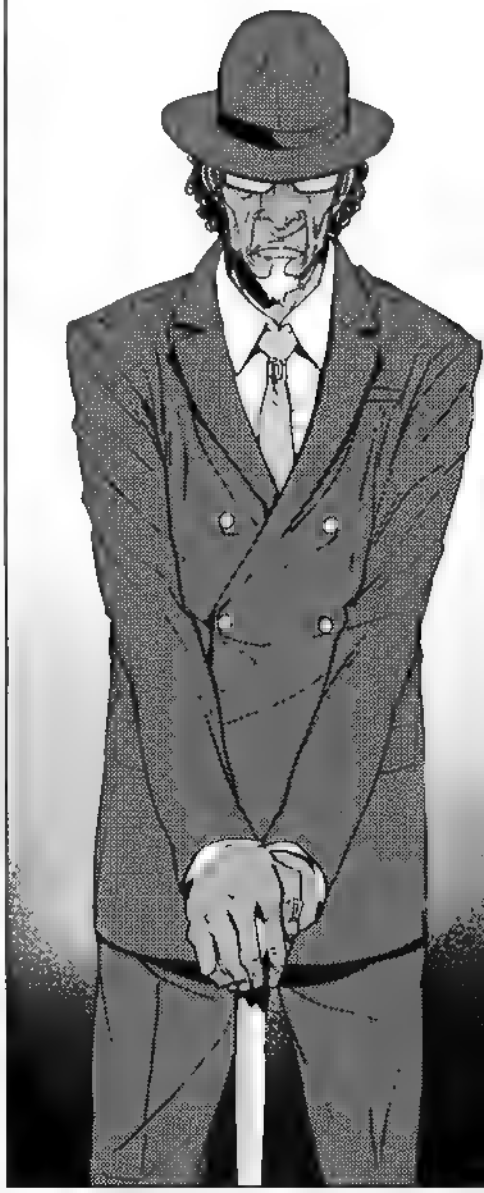
USE YOUR GUN.
I KNOW YOU HAVE ONE.

SON OF A BITCH ...



THIS SCHOOL IS OFF-LIMITS!!
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON OVER HERE!?
THEY'VE BEEN WORKING FOR THE SCHOOL SINCE THE TDC STEPPED IN.
THESE AREN'T SIMPLE SECURITY GUARDS
I THINK KAIZER SLIPPED SOME OF HIS MEN INTO THE SECURITY OUTFIT

!?
WHO ARE YOU!?

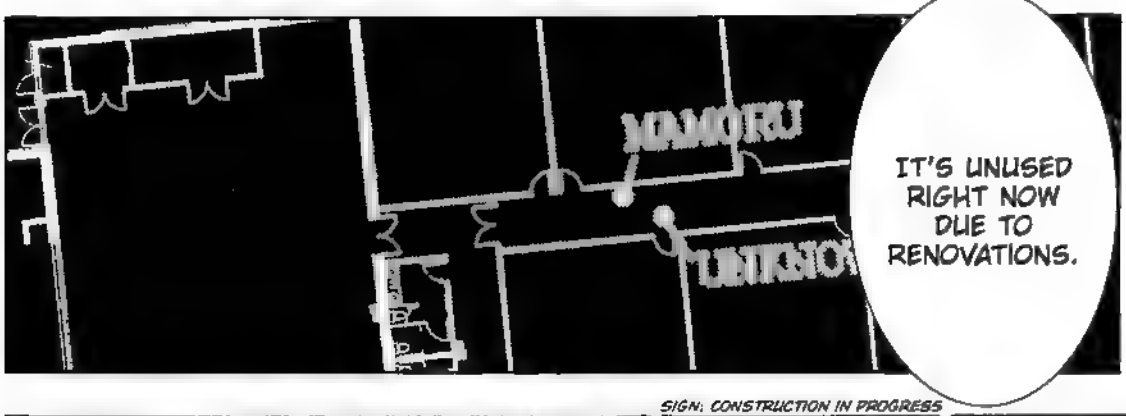


GWUH —!
GOFU (NGFF)
GAHA (GAHK)

ドサ
DOSA (THUMP)

WH-WHAT DID YOU DO!?

STAY SILENT AND WATCH WHAT HAPPENS, JUST AS YOU'VE BEEN TOLD.
IF YOU HAVE TO ASK, YOU'VE GOT A DECADE TO GO BEFORE YOU SHOULD CHALLENGE ME.
YOU CAN'T TELL?



SIGN: CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS

DAMN
YOU SURE THIS GUY'S BLIND!?
IT SEEMS LIKE HE KNOWS CLOSE COMBAT BETTER THAN I DO.

!?
BUT THAT DON'T MATTER ...
HERE WE GO, JACKPOT!

BA (WHOOSH)
...IS SUPER-CLOSE COMBAT !!
BA
MY SPECIALTY ...
BYU (WHAP)

TA
(LEAP)
HYU
(SWISH)

DOGO (THWUMP)
パ
PARA (DRIBBLE)
ラ
パ
PARA
ラ
BA (SWING)
バ

I USED THESE HARD CERAMIC KNUCKLES TO KILL A LION ONCE.
DAMN, NOT BAD...
...
INDEED ...
...THIS GUY'S GONNA BE A CHALLENGE ...!!

Until
Death
do us
Part

CAN YOUR EQUIPMENT MANAGE TO SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH THE BROADCAST ROOM?
IT CAN BE EXTREMELY QUIET, IF NECESSARY, SO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T ALERT THE STUDENTS.
UM, YEAH...
I CAN DO THAT.
All right.
JUST DO IT.
Why do I have to—

HUH!?
BE CAREFUL!
GA
GA
GA
GA (WHAM)

IT'S PRECISION AND FIGHTING INSTINCTS THAT WILL DETERMINE THE VICTOR.
SO WE BOTH HAVE PRIMITIVE WEAPONS OF HIGH-TECH MATERIALS...
TA (TEK)
...IF YOU SAY SO...
A NORMAL HUMAN'S REFLEXES AREN'T ENOUGH TO EVADE A BOXER'S COMBO...
VERY CLEVER.
HE BLOCKED AND AVOIDED MY ATTACK AND MANAGED TO WIDEN THE DISTANCE.
IF HE GETS TOO CLOSE, I'M DONE FOR...

GIN KWANG-JI
chapter 122
TSK...

KIN
CTINK
!?
HE JUST SLICED THROUGH HARD CERAMIC ...
I GUESS THAT "SWORD THAT CUTS THROUGH ANYTHING" RUMOR WASN'T BULLSHIT AFTER ALL.

TA
(TEK)
HYUN
(SWISH)
HYUN

ZASHAAA
(SLASH)
!?

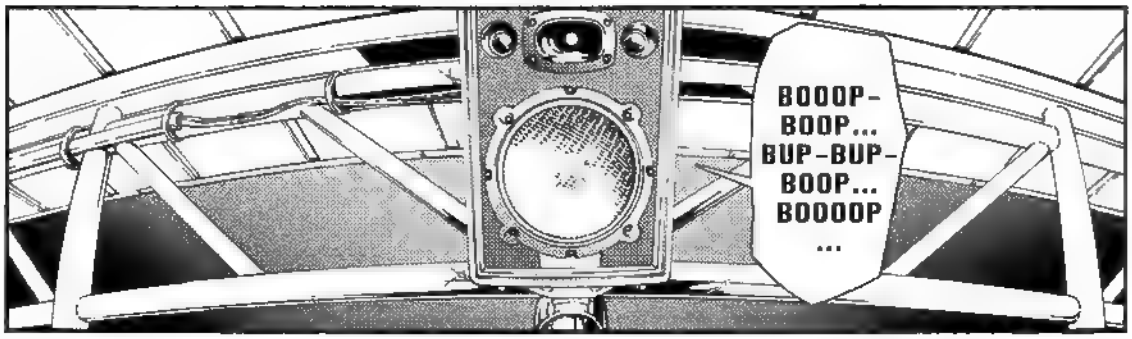
HE BLOCKED MY SWORD WITH HIS FIST!?
NEVER SEEN THAT ONE BEFORE.

AHEM.
PARDON ME. I'M LEAVING FOR A MOMENT.
BATAN (THUMP)
SO THAT'S HOW HE SEES THE WORLD...
IT MUST MEAN THAT IT WORKS BASED ON—

...I FIGURED ONE OF YOU WOULD SNIFF ME OUT EVENTUALLY.
...

BUN (WHOOSH)
BUN
WHAT'S THAT? ALREADY GOING ON THE DEFENSIVE?

THIS AIN'T MY DEFENSIVE STANCE.

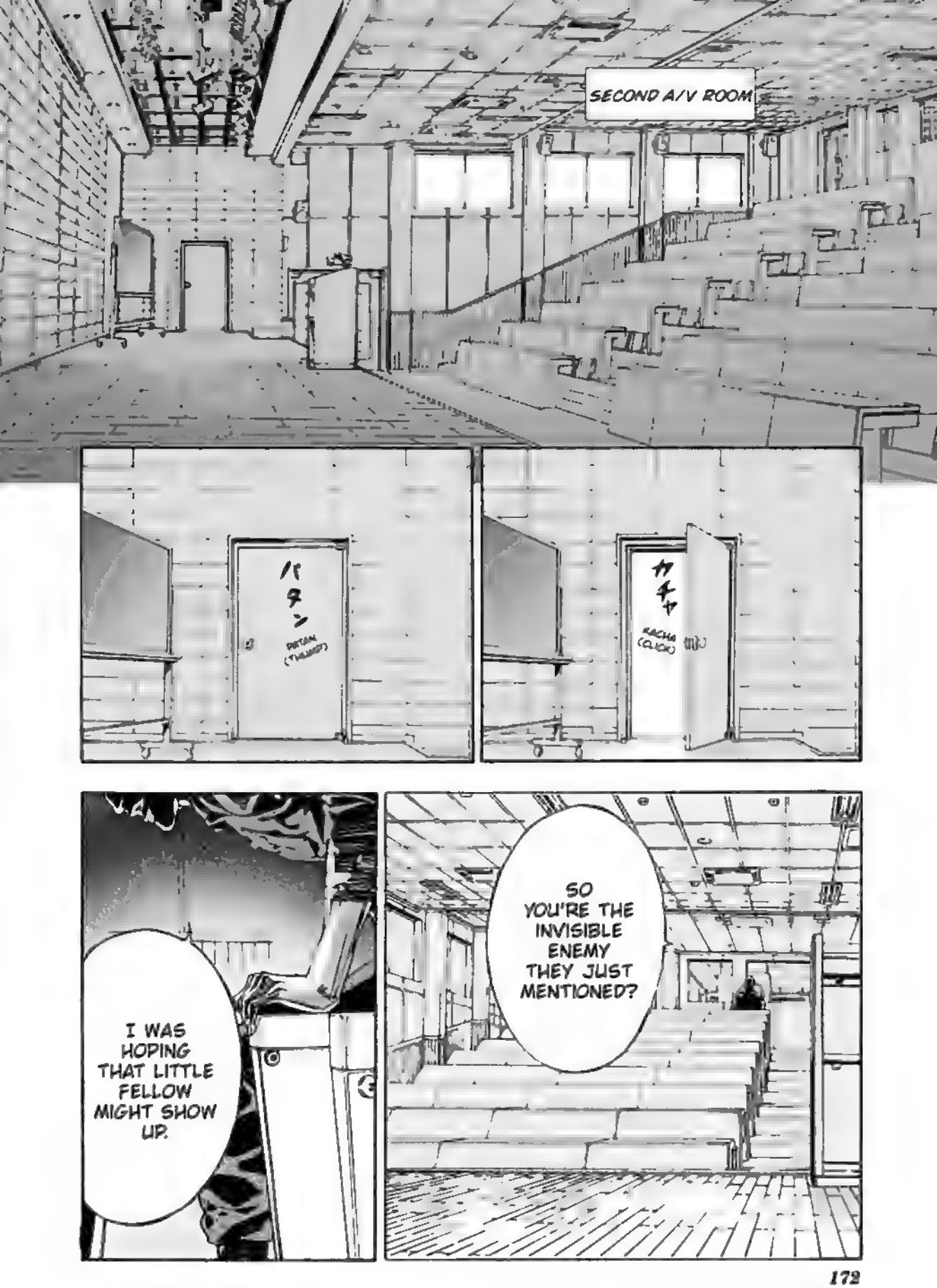

BOOOP-
BOOP...
BUP-BUP-
BOOP...
BOOOOP
...

Currently identified equipment used by the Trumps includes—

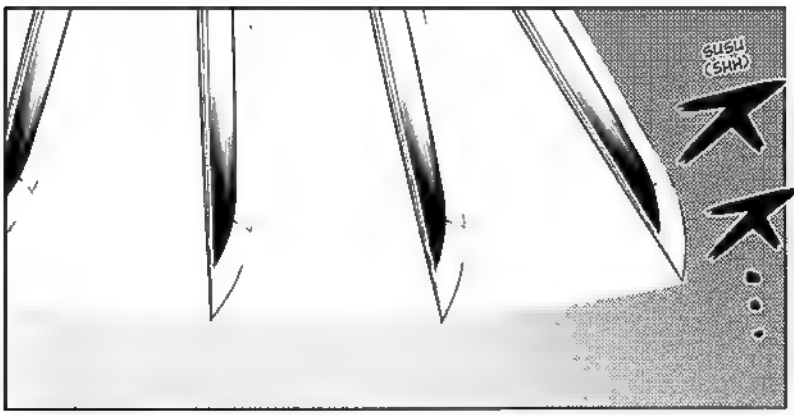
A warning.

— and a G.O. (geometrical optics) cloaking device.
One of the members is currently en route to the second A/V room.
BOOP... BOOP- BUP-BUP- BOOP.
If you intend to intercept, please arm yourself immediately.

I DUNNO WHO'S SENDING THAT INFO, BUT I'LL HAVE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT.
JUST GONNA ANNOUNCE IT IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY?
WHAT'S WITH THAT...?
YOU STOLE MY LINE!!
I GUESS I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING ONCE I BEAT YOU.


SECOND A/V ROOM
バタン
BATAN (THUMP)
カチャ
KACHA (CLICK)
I WAS HOPING THAT LITTLE FELLOW MIGHT SHOW UP.
SO YOU'RE THE INVISIBLE ENEMY THEY JUST MENTIONED?

I'LL JUST HAVE TO PICK YOU OFF ONE BY ONE, SAVING THE LITTLE ONE FOR LAST.
BUT WHAT-EVER.
AA
A
A


SUSU (SHH)

GYUO (ZWOOSH)

CHA (CHK)

BUO (FWOOSH)

GYUN (ZOOM)
NUH-UH!

GOTCHA !!
BAK! (CRUNCH)
NWAH!

THAT ATTACK WAS JUST A FEINT FOR THIS!?

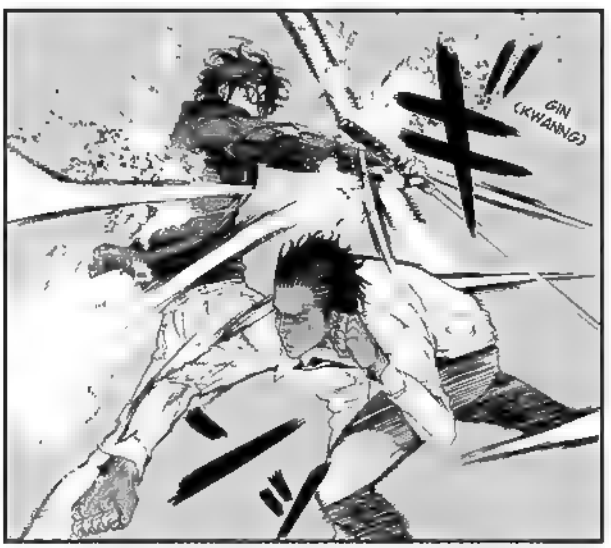
DON'T STEP IN! PULL BACK!!
YOU'RE MINE!
ヒュッ
WHOOSH

WHAT'S THIS!?
BUKU
BUKU (BLUB)
BUO (BWOOM)
TSK! DON'T BUTT IN ON MY GAME!
I WOULDA AVOIDED THAT ATTACK!
ZUBO (SHWLIP)
...
SU (SHH)
BATAN (THUMP)

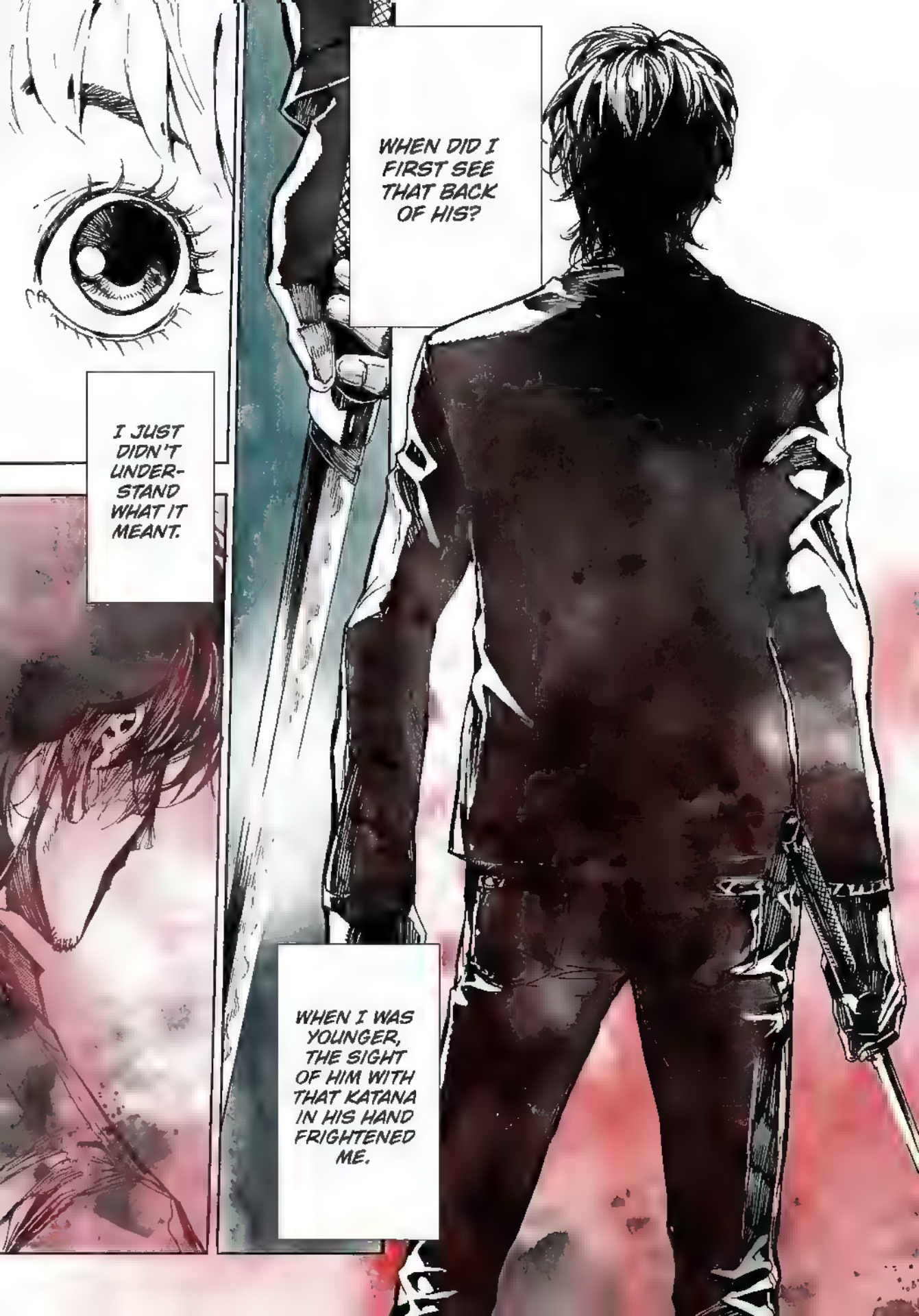
SORRY, GUYS...
I'M THE ONE WHO TAKES THE JACKPOT...
...

THIS IS LOOKING LIKE...
OH NO...

TOOYAMA-SAN!?


GIN
(KWANNG)

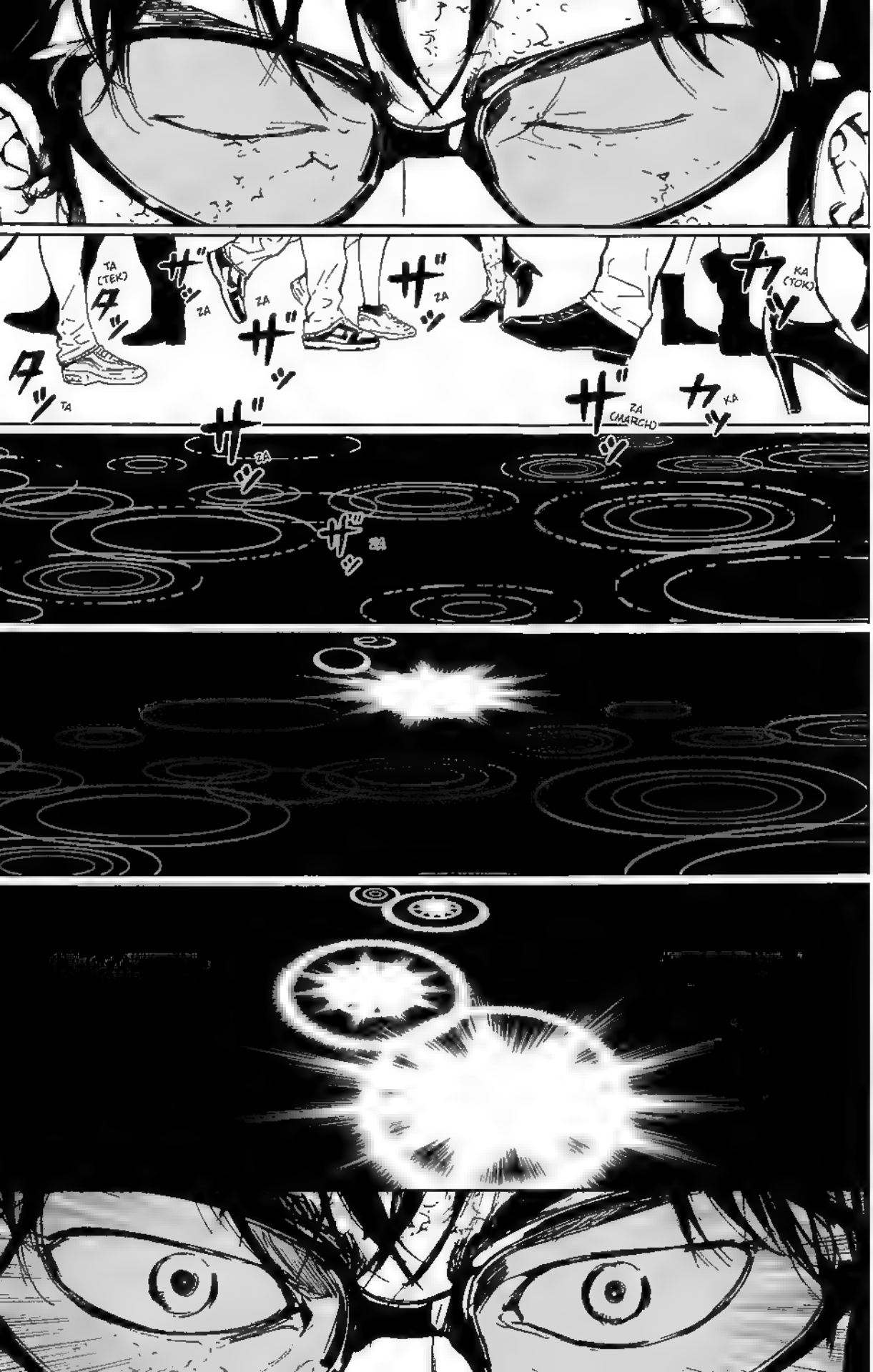
Until
Death
do us
Part


WHEN DID I FIRST SEE THAT BACK OF HIS?
I JUST DIDN'T UNDER-STAND WHAT IT MEANT.
WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, THE SIGHT OF HIM WITH THAT KATANA IN HIS HAND FRIGHTENED ME.

special chapter: bride

special chapter: bride

GAYA (CHATTER)
ガヤ
ガヤ
ZAWA
ザワ
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ザワ

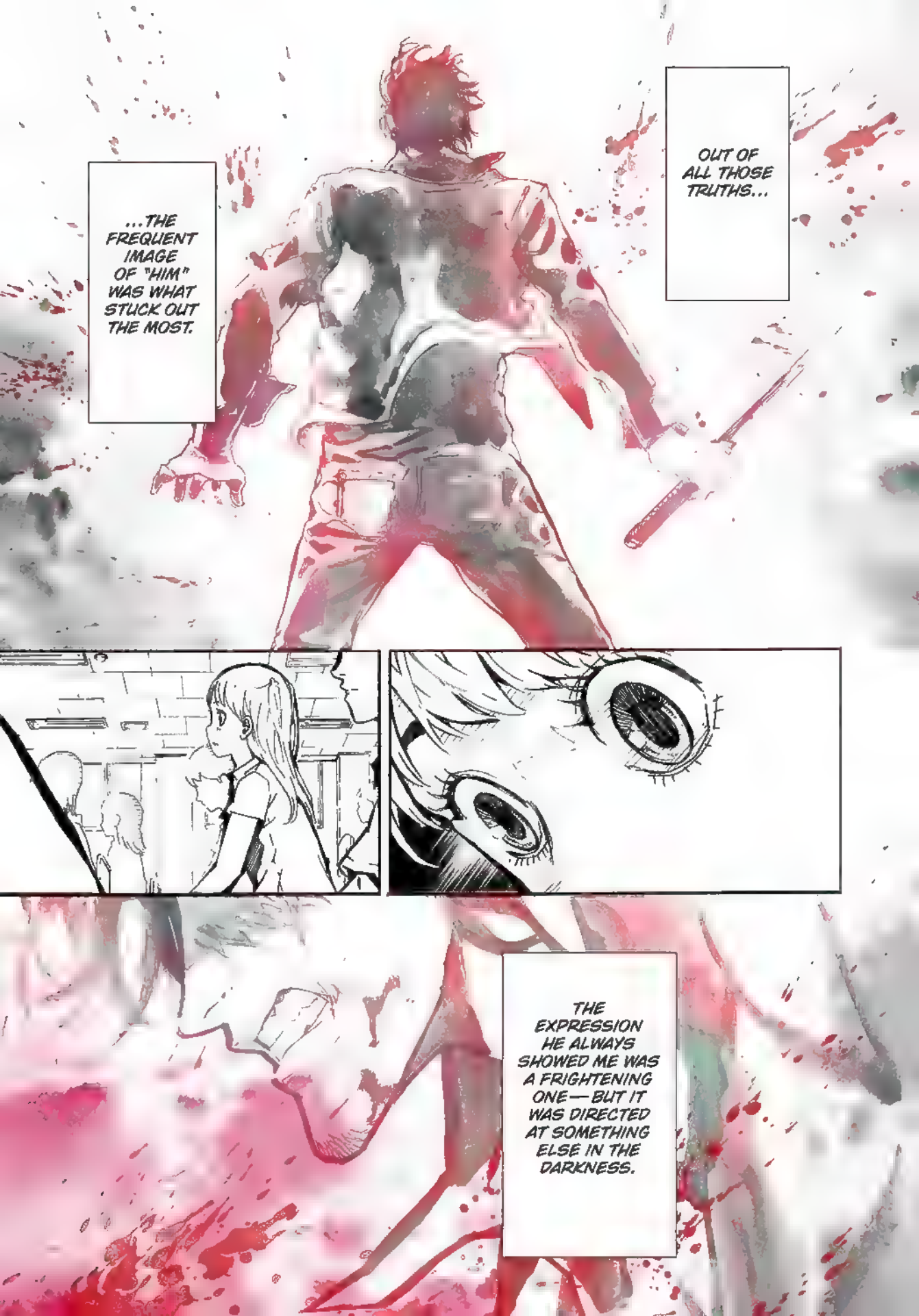

TA (TEK)
TA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
KA (TOK)
KA
ZA MARCHO
ZA
ZA

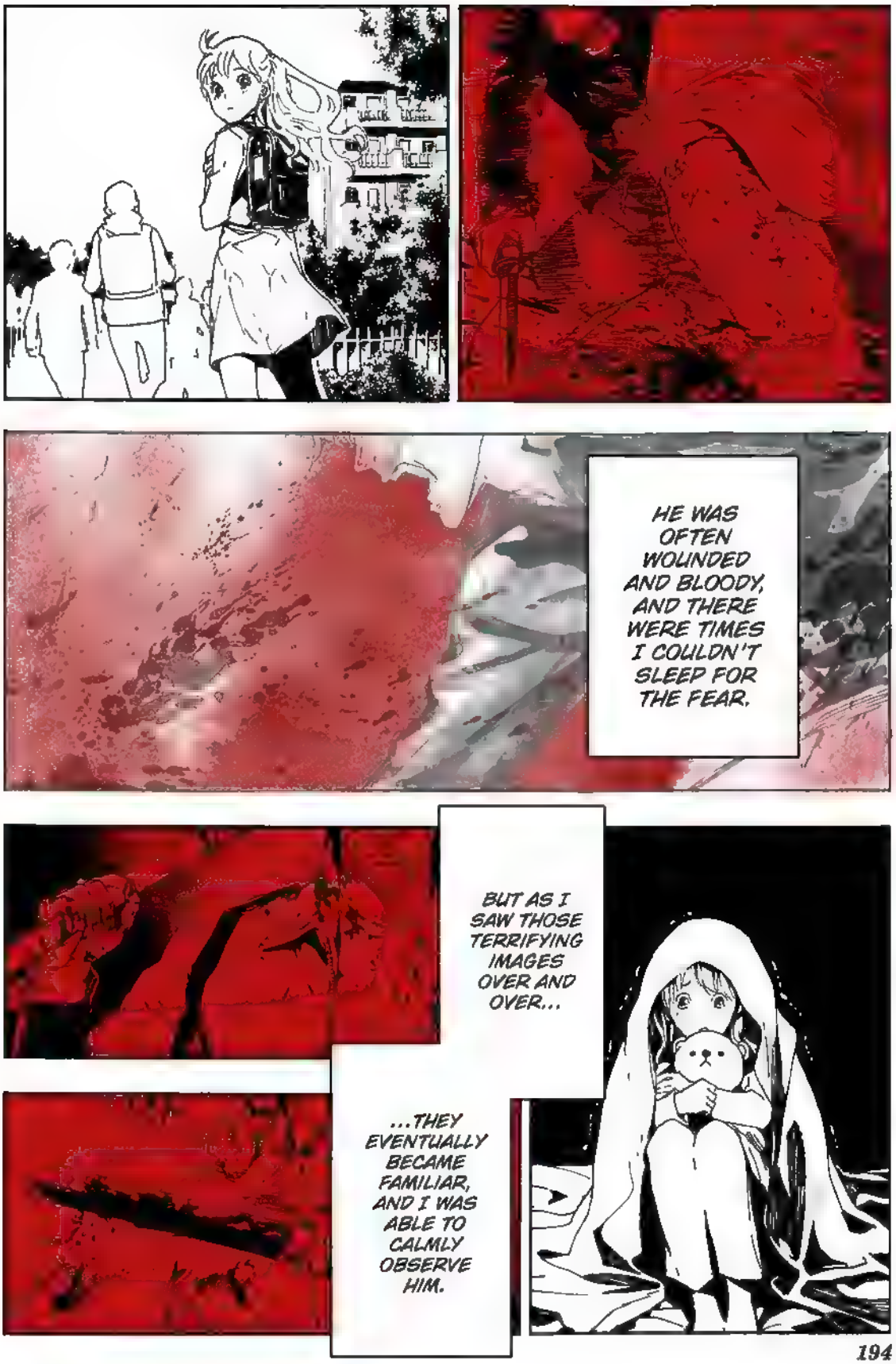
...
TA (TEK)
TA
MAMORU-SAN!
!?
DA (DSH)
DA

HEY, I KNOW THIS GUY.
YEAH, HE'S GOT A BOUNTY.
...
GACHI (CLICK)

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
THEY'RE NOT STUPID ENOUGH TO OPEN FIRE WITH SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND.
SOME-TIMES I CAN SEE A VISION OF THE FUTURE.
SASA! (SWISH)
DA (DASH)
DON'T LET HIM SLIP AWAY!
I KNOW. A HUNDRED MILLION BUCKS FOR KILLING HIM, AND FIVE HUNDRED MIL FOR ABDUCTING THE LITTLE BITCH!

I DON'T SEE EVERY SINGLE DETAIL, OF COURSE. ON RARE OCCASIONS, I'M EVEN WRONG.
THOUGH I'M NOT SURE, I BELIEVE THAT I SEE THE LIKELIEST OF ALL POSSIBILITIES AND INTERPRET THEM AS TRUTHS.


...THE FREQUENT IMAGE OF "HIM" WAS WHAT STUCK OUT THE MOST.
OUT OF ALL THOSE TRUTHS...
THE EXPRESSION HE ALWAYS SHOWED ME WAS A FRIGHTENING ONE— BUT IT WAS DIRECTED AT SOMETHING ELSE IN THE DARKNESS.


HE WAS OFTEN WOUNDED AND BLOODY, AND THERE WERE TIMES I COULDN'T SLEEP FOR THE FEAR.
BUT AS I SAW THOSE TERRIFYING IMAGES OVER AND OVER...
...THEY EVENTUALLY BECAME FAMILIAR, AND I WAS ABLE TO CALMLY OBSERVE HIM.

HE WAS...
DOKI (BA-BUMP)
ドキ
DOKI
ドキ
DOKI
ドキ
AND WITH TIME, I UNDERSTOOD THAT "HE" WAS ACTUALLY PROTECTING ME FROM SOMEONE ELSE.

...MAMORU HIJIKATA, THE ONE IN FRONT OF ME RIGHT NOW.

ドン
DON
ドン
DON
KIN
(KTING)

ZUGAGAGA
(SHWAAHO

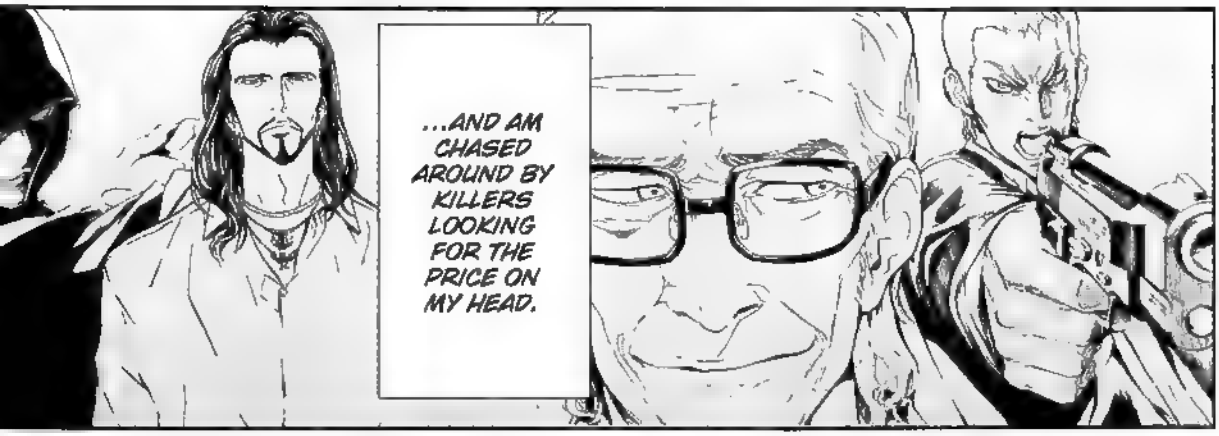
BARA (KSHUNK)
BUSHUU (BSHHT)
AAA AAA AAA AH!
GUAAA!!

YOU'LL NEVER FIRE A GUN AGAIN!!
I CUT THE TENDONS IN YOUR DOMINANT ARM.
SCUM-BAGS!
A BLIND EXPERT OF THE SWORD...
ZUZU (ZZZZZ)
...AND VERY VIOLENT.
DOSU (THWUNK)

HE CALLS HIMSELF AN ECCENTRIC WHO CARES FOR NOTHING BUT POLISHING HIS OWN SWORD SKILLS.
IN SHORT, HE WAS QUITE A CHARACTER.
GYAAA!
ZUBO (SHUK)
ズボ
EEP!
NOW STAY ON THE GROUND UNTIL THE POLICE COME!
I'M JUST KIDDING.
MA-MORU-SAN!
OR DID YOU WANT ME TO RUIN THE OTHER ARM TOO?
EEK!

JUST DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A CHILD.
YOU NEED TO BE MORE CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT YOU'RE WANTED.
OKAY.
AND WHAT ARE YOU, IF NOT A THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD KID?
OKAY ...
FAIR POINT, BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER!!
..... STUBBORN PIG!

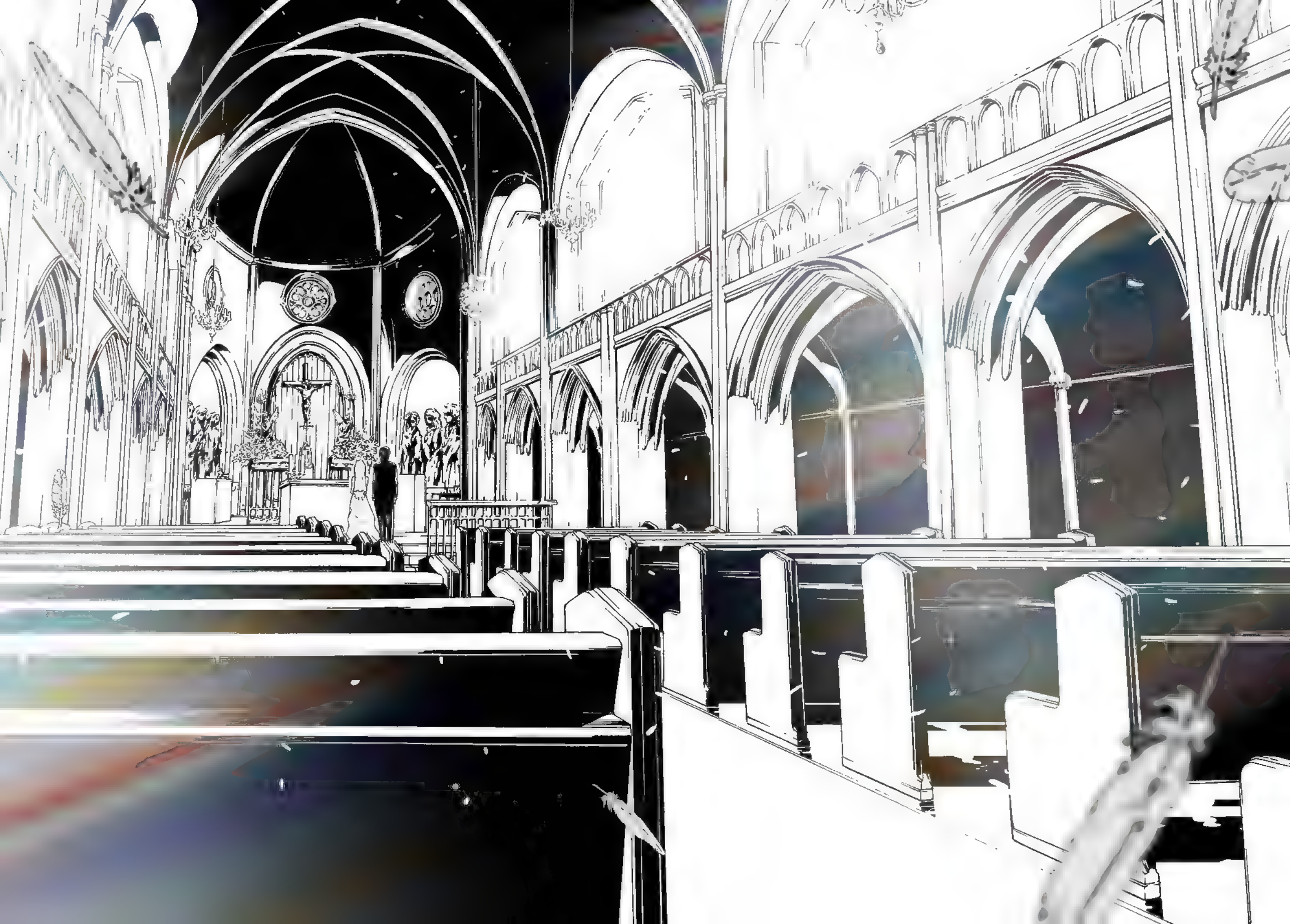
I CAN PREDICT THE FUTURE— AND BECAUSE OF THIS, I LOST MY PARENTS ...

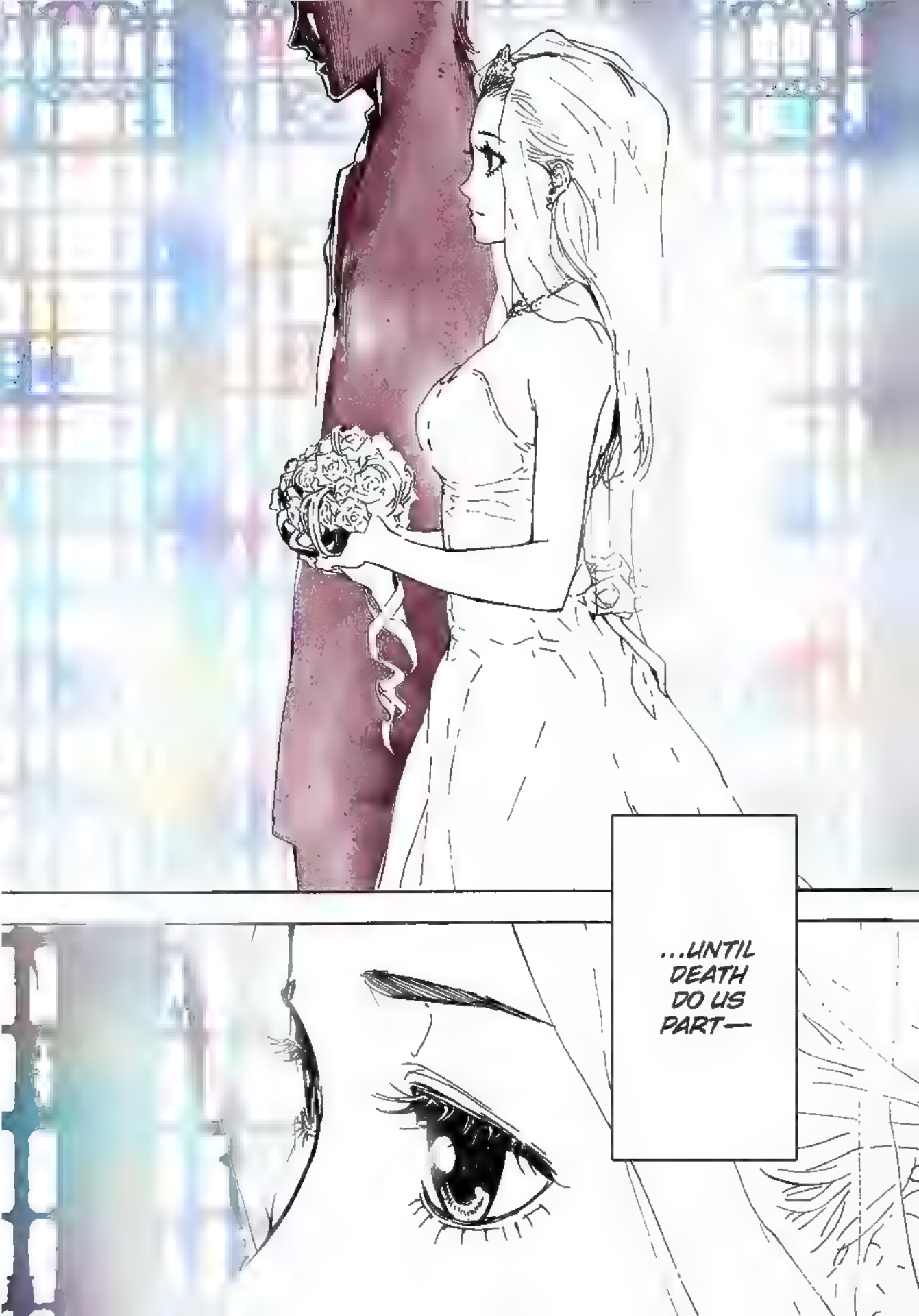

...AND AM CHASED AROUND BY KILLERS LOOKING FOR THE PRICE ON MY HEAD.

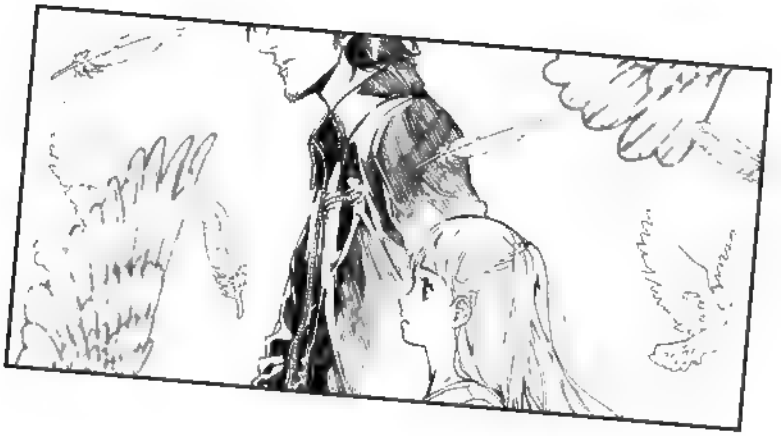
USE WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY ...

JUST GET THAT GIRL!!
AMIDST ALL OF THIS...

OKAY!
THERE'S JUST ONE IMAGE THAT SERVES AS MY INNER REFUGE.
LET'S GO HOME.
HE'S THE ONLY ONE TO PROTECT ME FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD.
BASA
BASA
BASA
BASA
BASA



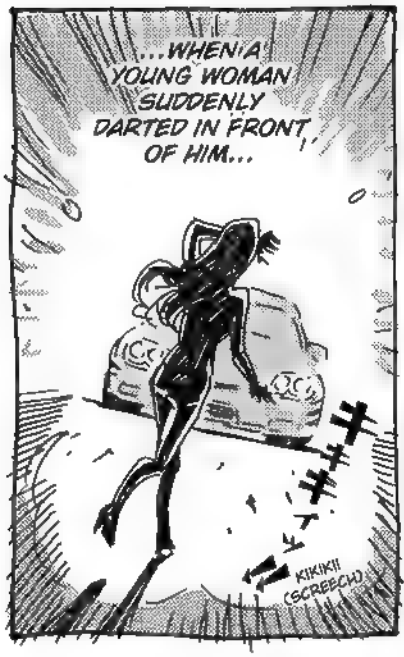

...UNTIL DEATH DO US PART—

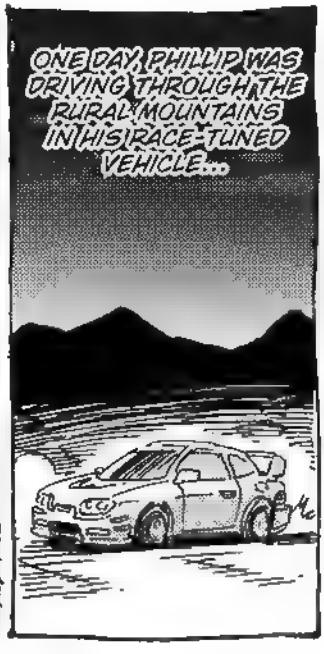


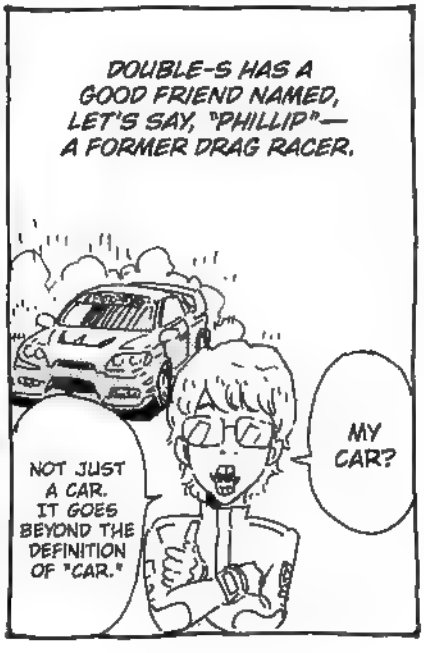
Horror Story Special

THE TERROR OF THE ROLL CAGE ON NATL. ROUTE 00

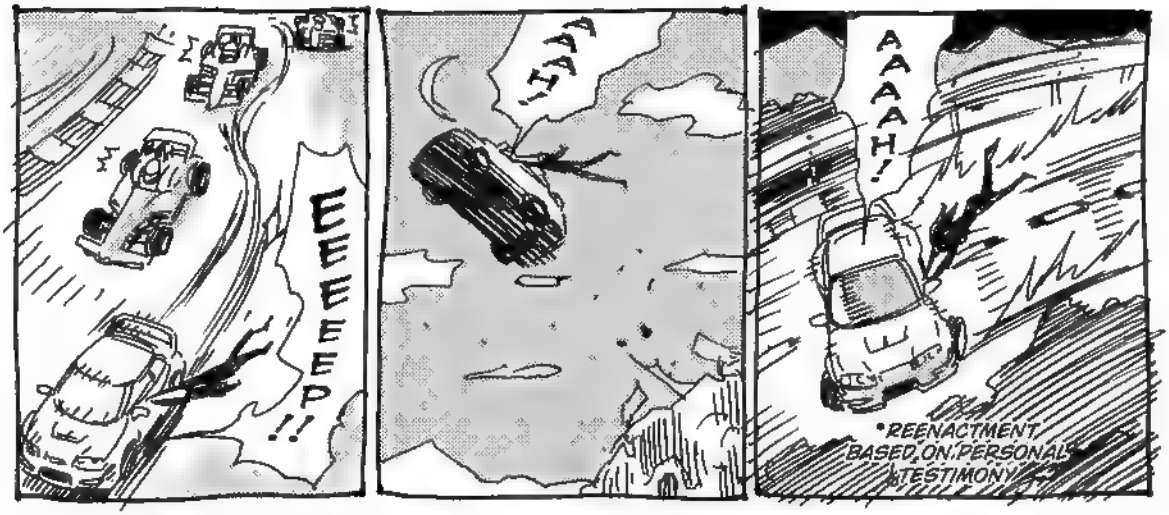
* THIS STORY IS BASED ON TRUE EVENTS (HA-HA).



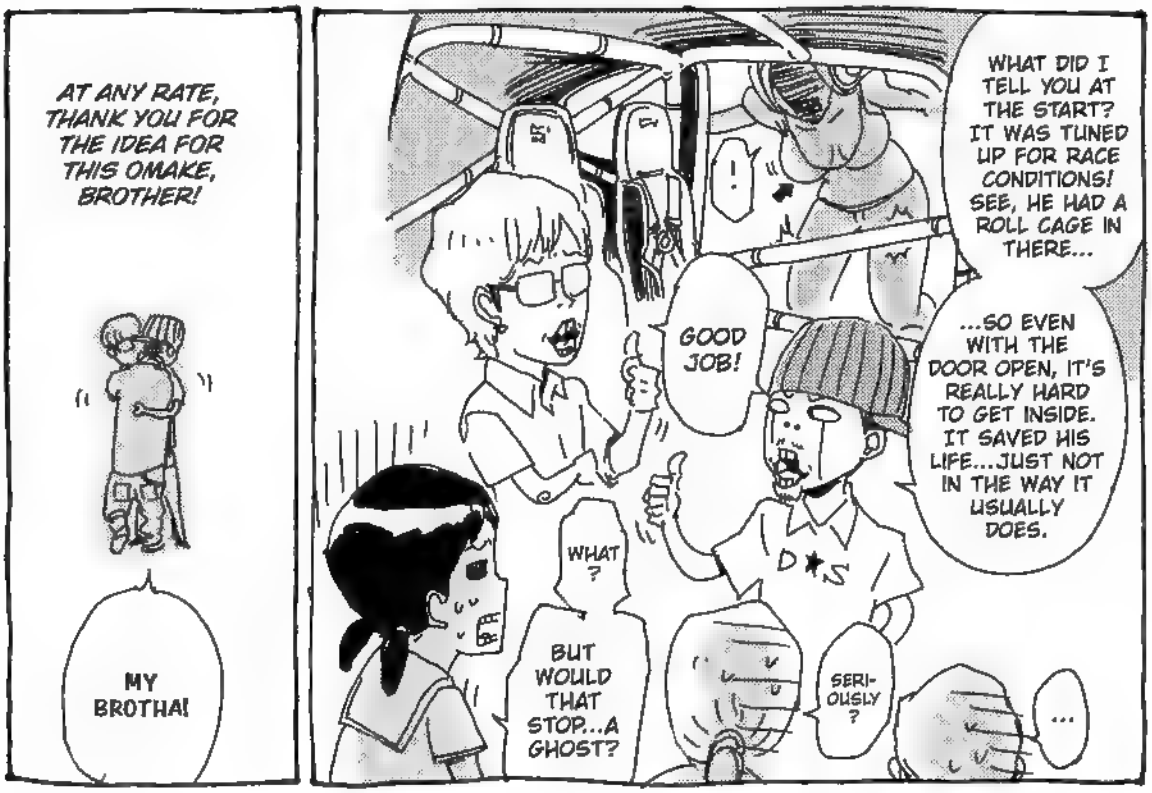


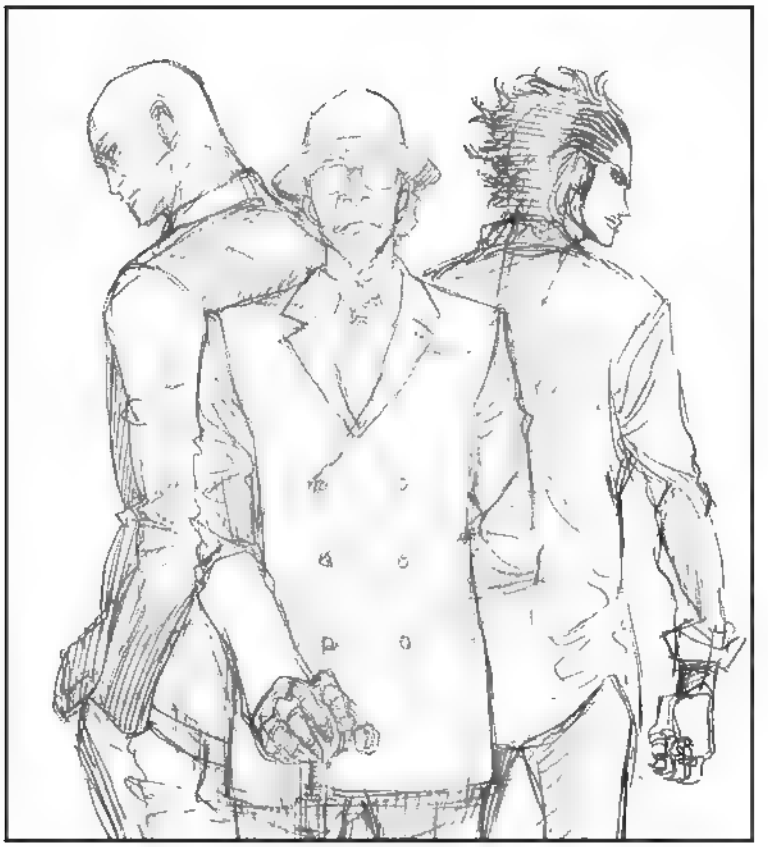

DOUBLE-S HAS A GOOD FRIEND NAMED, LET'S SAY, "PHILLIP"— A FORMER DRAG RACER.
MY CAR?
NOT JUST A CAR. IT GOES BEYOND THE DEFINITION OF "CAR."

RIGHT THIS WAY, MADEMOISELLE! ♪
UH... OKAY!
HIS MASCULINE SENSES TOLD HIM THIS WOMAN WAS TELLING THE TRUTH AND NEEDED HIS ASSISTANCE...
HELP! PLEASE, HELP!!
!!
BUT THEN...
YOUNG PHILLIP, SENSING DANGER, HIT THE GAS AS HARD AS HE COULD...
EEEEEK!!
BY THE WAY, PHILLIP WORKS ON 99% INTUITION, 1% INSTINCT.
GACHA (CLICK)
ガチャッ
HIS SIXTH SENSE KICKED IN!!
HUH? THE WAY SHE'S MOVING, IT'S ALMOST LIKE...
...SHE'S GLIDING OVER THE GROUND...
AND THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANYONE IN THIS SECLUDED MOUNTAIN PASS...


EEEEEEP!!
AAAAH!
*REENACTMENT BASED ON PERSONAL TESTIMONY

SO HOW DID HE KEEP THE WOMAN FROM ENTERING THE CAR? I THOUGHT YOU SAID HE OPENED THE DOOR.
UM, WHAT!?
SO HE JUST DROVE AROUND LIKE CRAZY, BUT HE NEVER FOUND ANY SIGN OF HUMANITY...HE DROVE UNTIL THE SUN CAME UP, STORY GOES.


AT ANY RATE, THANK YOU FOR THE IDEA FOR THIS OMAKE, BROTHER!
MY BROTHA!
GOOD JOB!
WHAT DID I TELL YOU AT THE START? IT WAS TUNED UP FOR RACE CONDITIONS! SEE, HE HAD A ROLL CAGE IN THERE...
...SO EVEN WITH THE DOOR OPEN, IT'S REALLY HARD TO GET INSIDE. IT SAVED HIS LIFE...JUST NOT IN THE WAY IT USUALLY DOES.
WHAT?
BUT WOULD THAT STOP...A GHOST?
SERIOUSLY?
...



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SPECIAL THANKS
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(Shogakukan)

Design Assistance
Hitoshi Fukuchi

Until
Death
do us
Part

TA
(TEK)
TA
TA
TA

chapter 123

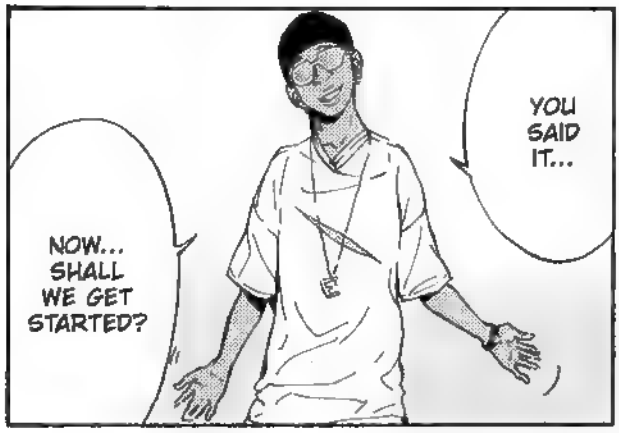
...
...ARE YOU LEAVING?
!?
TOOYAMA-SAN!?
タタッ
TA
(TEKO
TA
I'D LIKE TO HOLD YOU BACK...
...BUT I'M A BIT OCCUPIED AT THE MOMENT.

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.
PLEASE HANDLE THE SITUATION HERE...
TA (T&K)
YOU MUSTN'T GO!
THANK YOU FOR THE COMPLIMENT ...
I CAN'T EVEN SPOT A WEAK POINT ON YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF A CONVERSATION.
YOU'RE GOOD.

THAT 24 GUY I JUST FOUGHT WAS GOOD, BUT HE WAS A SOLDIER—A MERCENARY.
YOU'RE MORE OF AN ASSASSIN, AREN'T YOU?
...
THIS IS GIVIN' ME THE CHILLS, MAN...
I CAN FEEL THE MURDER RAGE POURIN' OFF YOU FROM HERE.

WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY INTEL ON YOU... A THIRD PARTY, HUH?

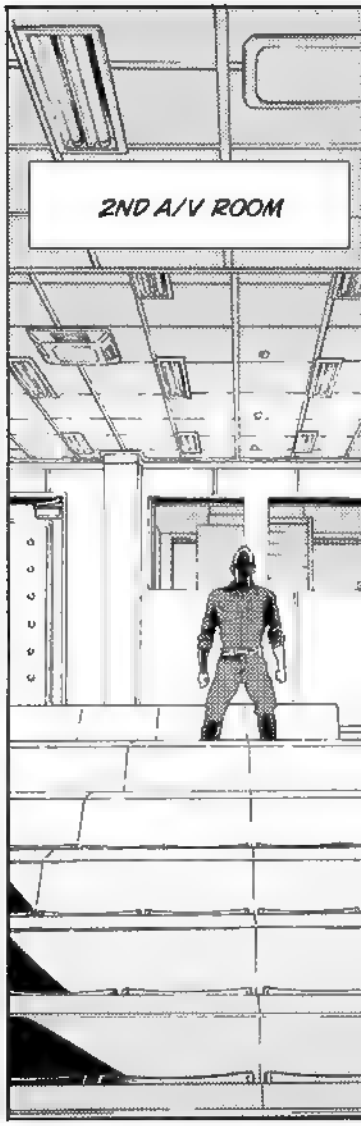
PERHAPS EVEN A FIFTH PARTY, DEPENDING ON HOW YOU LOOK AT IT.
I MIGHT BE A FOURTH PARTY...


NOW... SHALL WE GET STARTED?
YOU SAID IT...

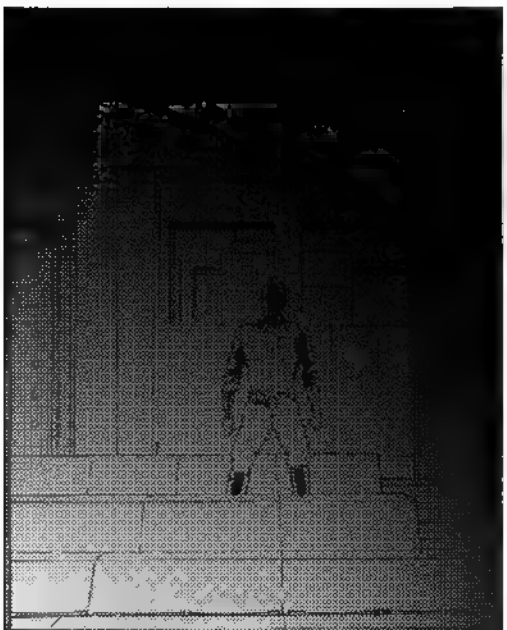
I SUPPOSE SO. WE CAN'T STAND AROUND AND GLARE AT EACH OTHER ALL DAY.

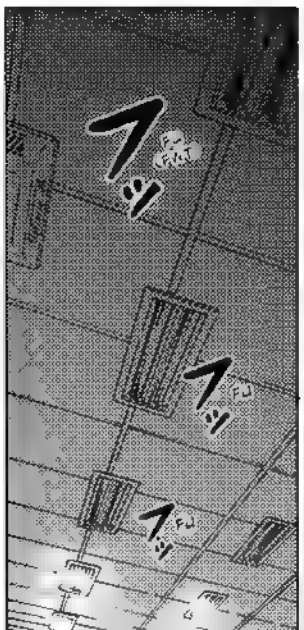
A GAGGLE OF FULLY GROWN ADULTS CONVERGING ON A SINGLE SCHOOL TO MURDER ONE ANOTHER? ABSURD.
IT'S REALLY QUITE RIDICULOUS.

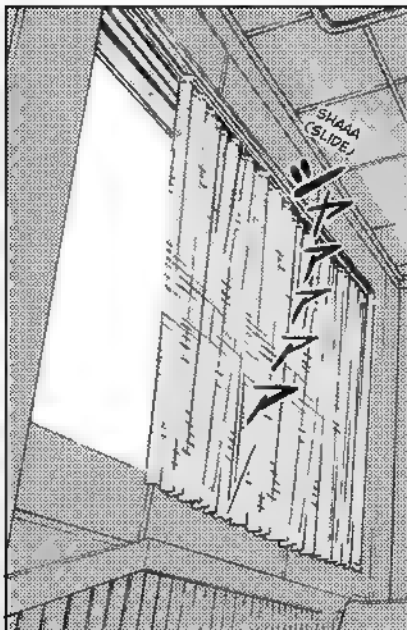
...I SEE...
YOU REALLY ARE INVISIBLE...


2ND A/V ROOM

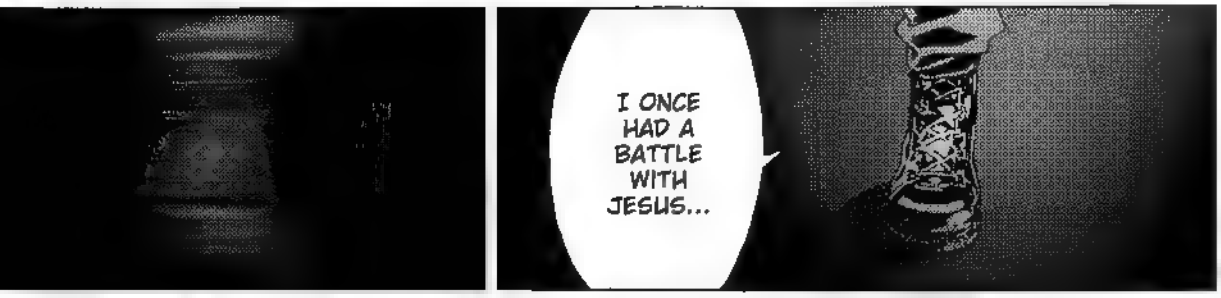
SO LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T EVEN THE PLAYING FIELD A BIT.
PI (BEEP)

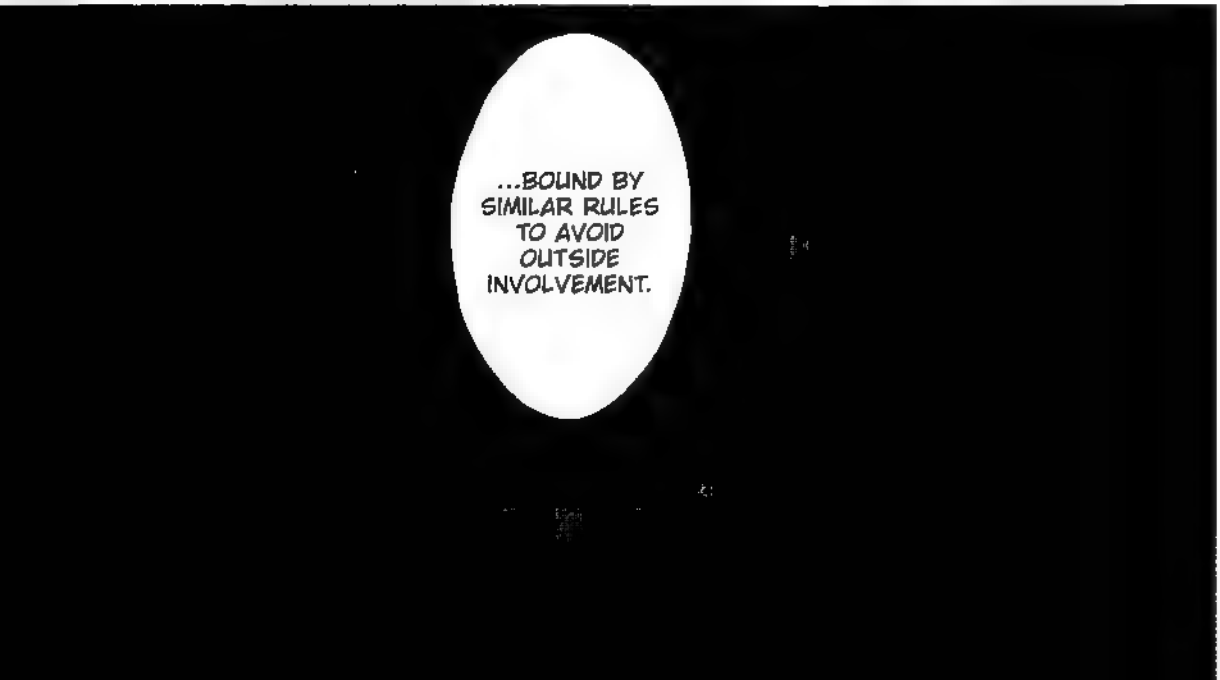



PJ
PJ
PJ


SHAAA (SLIDE)

IT'S NOT TRUE DARKNESS, BUT I SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL THIS EVEN...
...RIGHT, INVISIBLE MAN?


I ONCE HAD A BATTLE WITH JESUS...


...BOUND BY SIMILAR RULES TO AVOID OUTSIDE INVOLVEMENT.

I SUPPOSE YOU CAN FILL HIS ABSENCE.
BUT ULTIMATELY, WE WERE INTERRUPTED ...

!?
MYUHYON (SWISH)
YOU CAN FIGHT WITHOUT THOSE STUPID TRICKS!
TIME TO TEACH YOU A LESSON.

SO KAIZER'S AS WELL VERSED IN STEALTH AS I AM. I'LL BE DAMNED...

GASU (SHUNK)
ガスッ
WHAT !?
...
PHEW...
GUESS THERE'S NO TURNING THE TABLES WHEN IT'S THREE-ON-ONE AGAINST CRAFTY VETERANS ...

WHAT'S HE PLANNING?
IT STINKS TO HELL ...
YOU GOT A BEAD ON HIM, SHIEDABRA?
SU (SWISH)
YEAH...
RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF MY SIGHTS, WAU.

TWO MEN PLUS A SNIPER, AND MY KATANA'S USELESS. WHAT ELSE AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
DAMN. I FIGURED HE WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO SENSE A SNIPER...
...BUT I'M DISAP-POINTED THAT HE'D GIVE HIM-SELF UP BECAUSE OF THAT.
I'M NOT NAIVE ENOUGH TO TAKE YOUR WORD ON THAT.
I CAN CALL HIM OFF, IF YOU WANT.
SHU (SWISH)
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO!?
...

NOTHING...
タン
TAN (DMP)
タンッ
TAN
タンッ
TAN
タンッ
TAN

PASHI (SNATCH)
TAN
GAH!
ARE YOU A CHICKEN-SHIT, JESUS !?
DA (DSH)
BAH ...

!?
YOU IDIOT!
SUCKER!
BUN (WHOOSH)

BA
(FWUMP)
BA
SWISH
ZUZAZA
(SLIDE)
!?

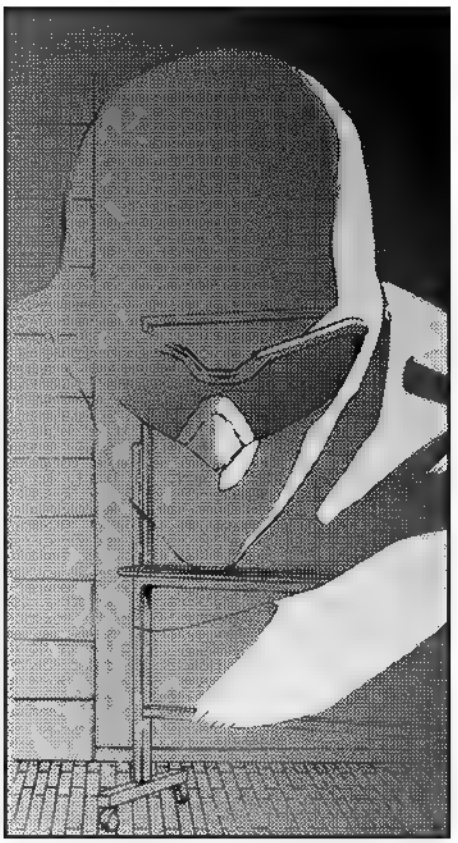
PASHU (PSHU)
BI (ZZIP)
PI (BEEP)
Danger
BIRI (ZZAP)
BIRI
AAAGH !!

...LITTLE BITCH...
PIN (FLIP)
SASA (SWISH)
WAIT!
ZA (ZSHH)

TOOYAMA-SAN!
NO, YOU CAN'T!
THIS CORNER IS ONE OF THE FEW PLACES IN THIS SCHOOL WHERE I COULD CUT DOWN ON THE REBOUNDS... IT WAS MY CHANCE TO STOP HIM!
WHY DID YOU BLOCK ME ON PURPOSE !?
?
!?

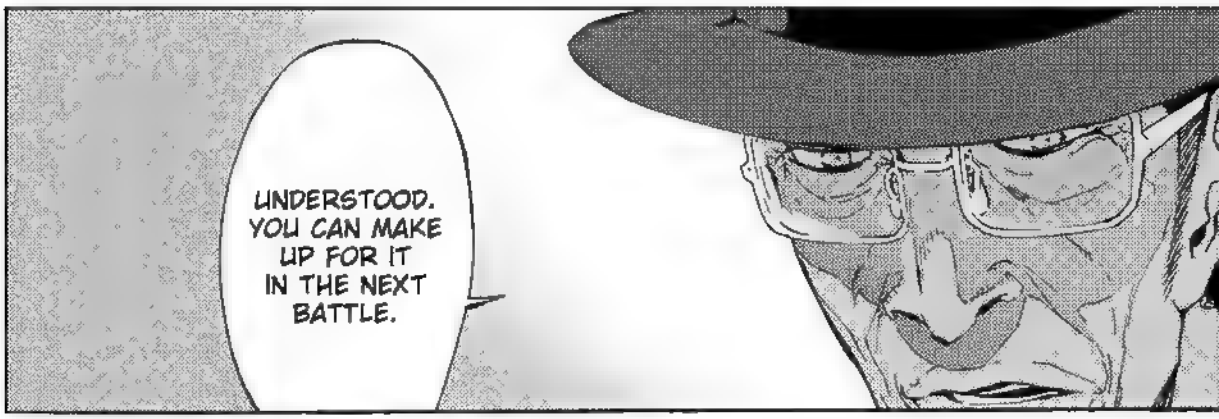
...
I'M TIRED OF PEOPLE DYING BECAUSE OF ME!!
WHETHER IT'S AN ENEMY OR A FRIEND OR MAMORU-SAN...
...OR YOU, SENSEI...
...

I SEE...SO THIS IS WHY HIJIKATA'S BEEN PLAYING NICE AND BY THE RULES.
ON THE OTHER HAND...
...HERS IS THE ORDINARY REACTION. WE'VE JUST FORGOTTEN HOW THE REST OF THE WORLD WORKS.
...
OF COURSE... SHE CAN SEE THE FUTURE. IF SHE USES THAT POWER ADEPTLY...
...SHE CAN CRAFT THE SITUATION IN A WAY THAT LEAVES NO ONE DEAD.
THAT IS THE IDEAL OUTCOME FOR ONE SWORN TO PROTECT.



Until
Death
do us
Part

TA
TA
TA
(TEK)
I FUCKED UP. GOT SHOCKED IN THE HAND, AND IT'S ALL NUMB.
GOTTA PULL OUT FOR NOW.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DEGA?


UNDERSTOOD. YOU CAN MAKE UP FOR IT IN THE NEXT BATTLE.

YEAH...

DAMMIT !!
DAN CTAHAHO

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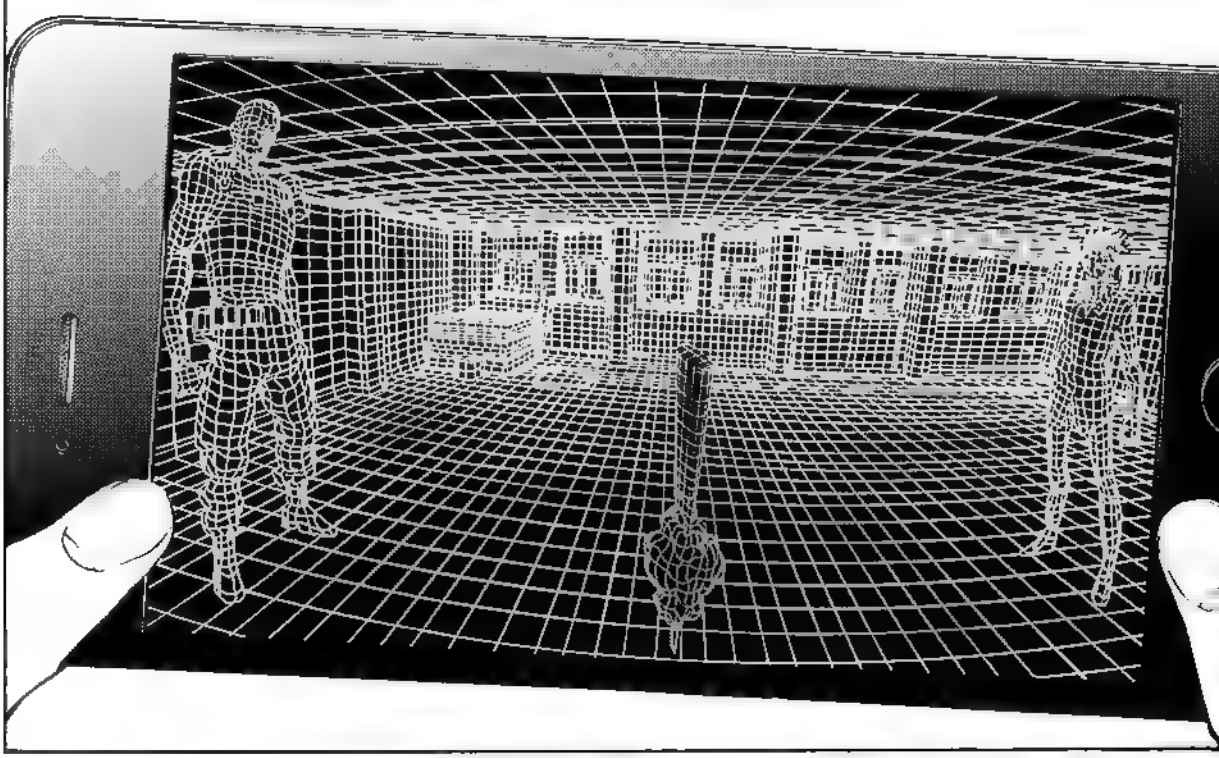
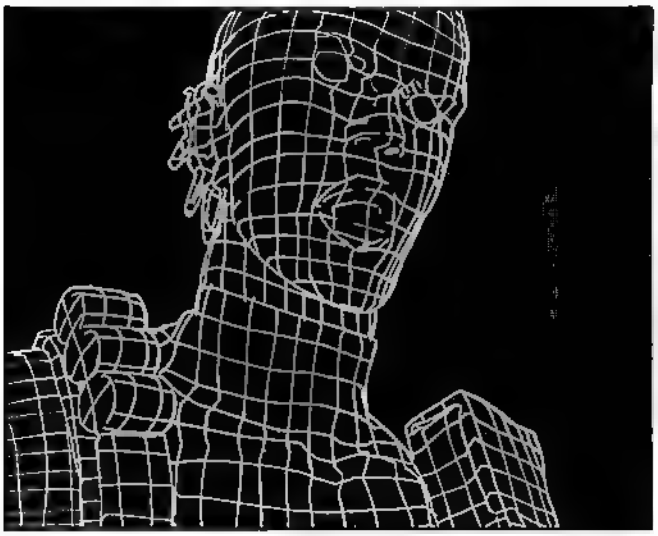
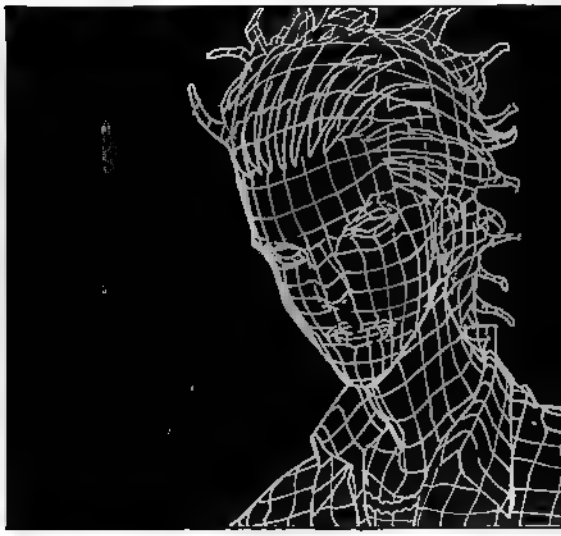






Forget about me...
IS THIS... WHAT HE'S SEEING?
UM, YES.

FOCUS YOUR STRENGTH ELSE-WHERE.

I have a plan. Their sniper's focused on me, which makes this the perfect time to tilt things to our favor somewhere else.
BUT...

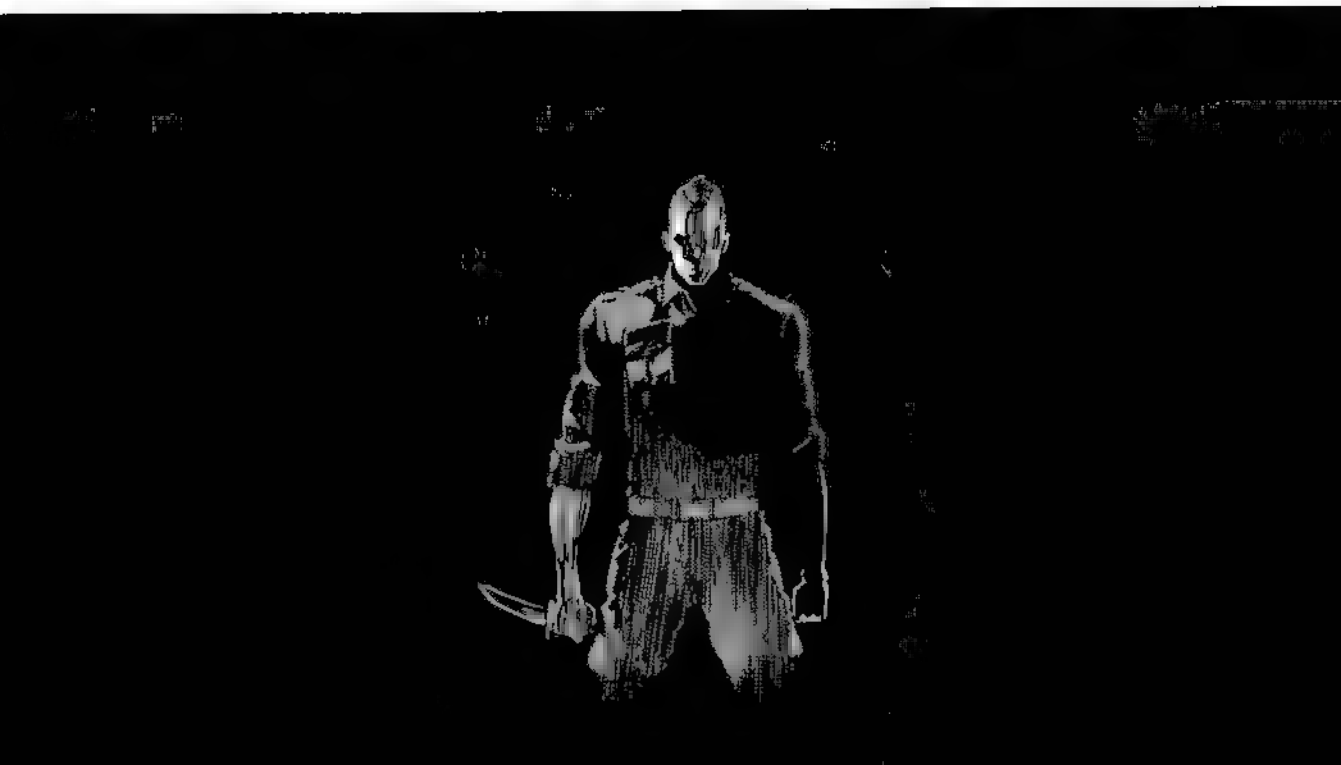
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE SEEMS TO HAVE THE SAME IDEA AS I DO.

I BELIEVE IT IS BONE CONDUCTION, SO HE'S NOT ACTUALLY SPEAKING OUT LOUD.
THE ENEMY DOESN'T HEAR HIM TALKING?

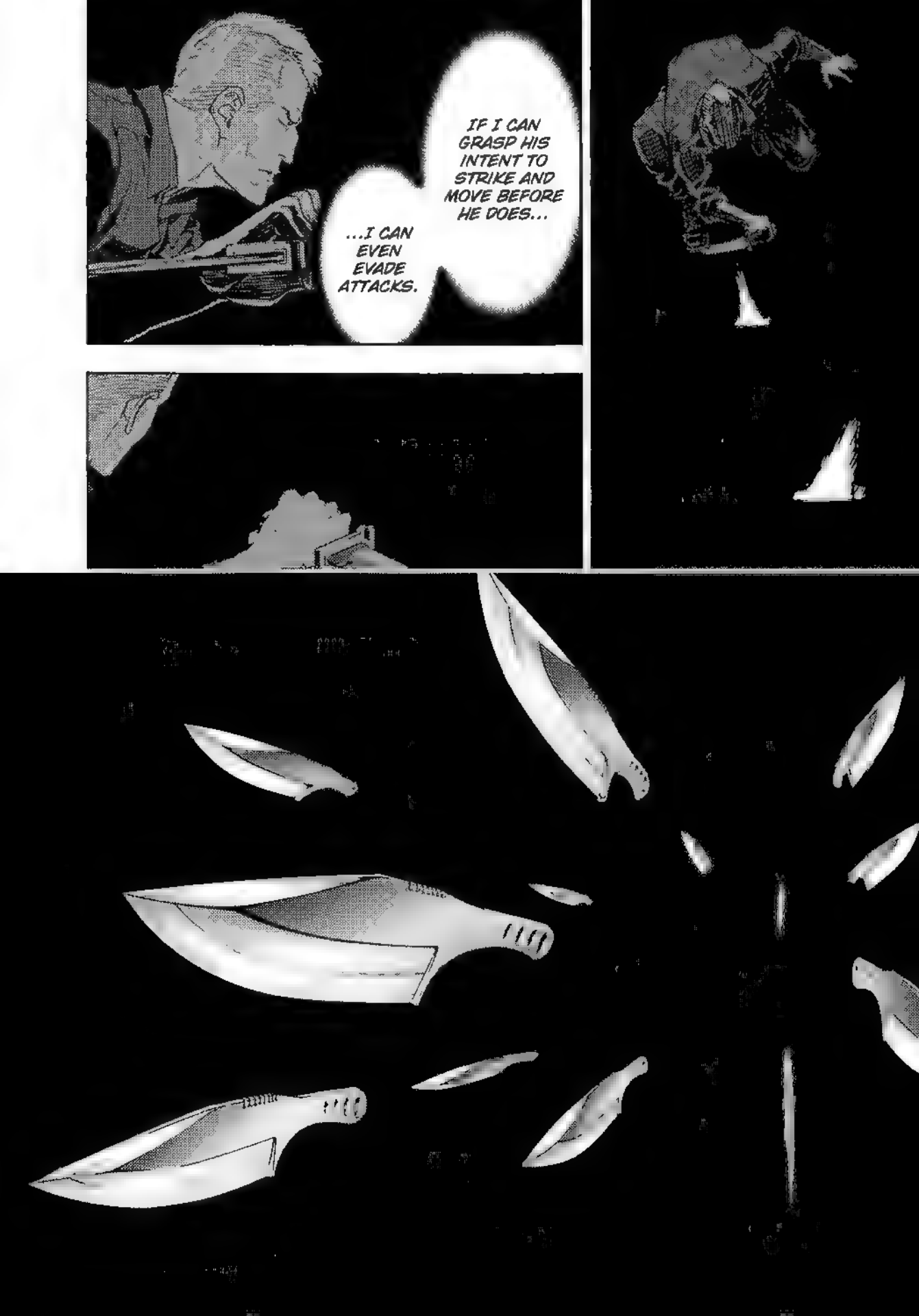
THEY DO SEEM TO BE AFTER HIJIKATA, WHICH MAKES HIM MOST USEFUL TO US AS A DECOY...
SPLITTING UP THE ENEMY FORCES, YOU MEAN?

...HE WON'T DIE RIGHT AWAY. BUT...
I'M PRETTY SURE...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, TOOYAMA-SAN?
KURU (SPIN)
LET'S HEAD FOR THE SECOND A/V ROOM, WHERE YOU JUST PUT ON THAT BLUFF EARLIER.
I THINK WE SHOULD FOCUS ON THE ENEMIES AWAY FROM THE THIRD LECTURE HALL.
AT PRESENT, THAT WOULD BE THE HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE INFIRMARY, OR...
...

2ND A/V ROOM



AS LONG AS WE STAND ON EQUAL FOOTING ...
...I CAN STILL SENSE THE ENEMY BY THE SOUND OF HIS BREATH AND THE SCENT OF HIS BODY.


IF I CAN GRASP HIS INTENT TO STRIKE AND MOVE BEFORE HE DOES...
...I CAN EVEN EVADE ATTACKS.

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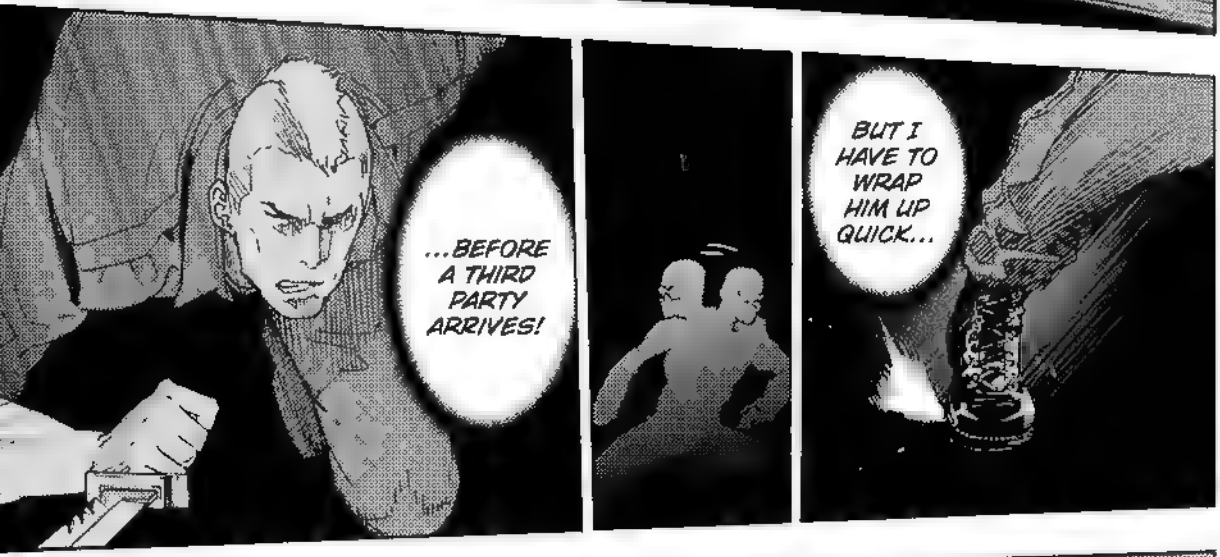
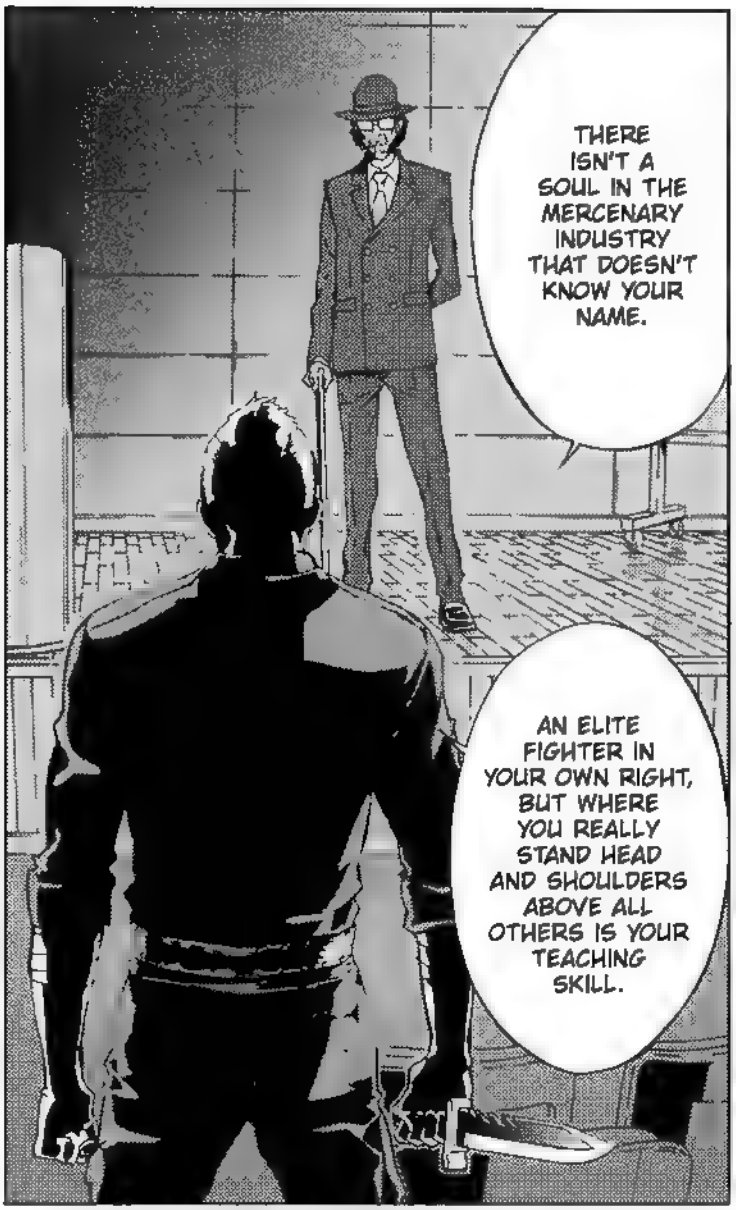

...BEFORE A THIRD PARTY ARRIVES!
BUT I HAVE TO WRAP HIM UP QUICK...

ガチャ
GACHA (CLICK)

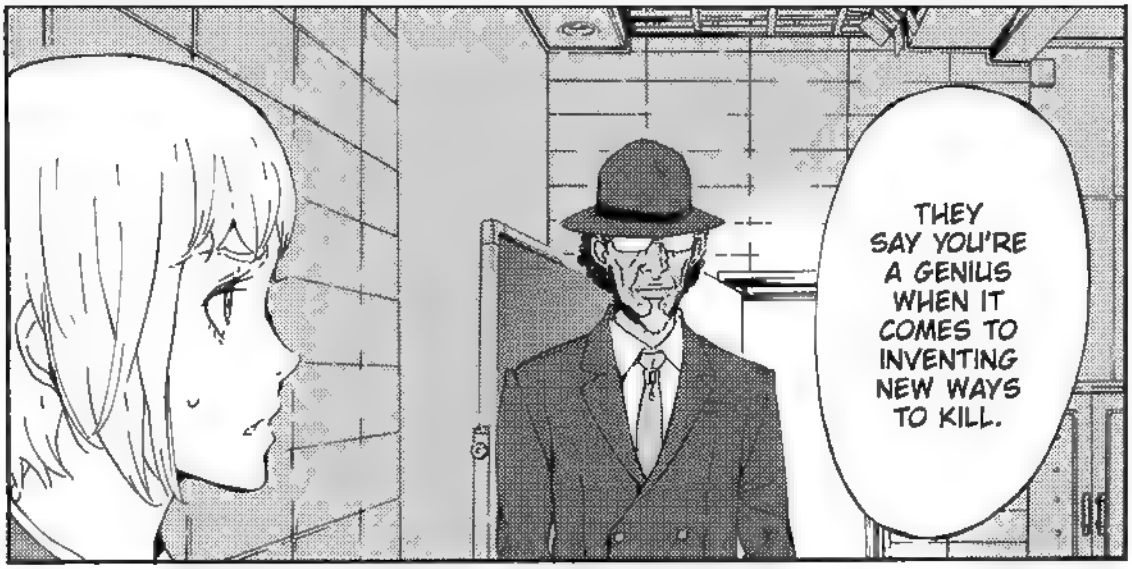
!?
ス…
SU (SHH)
ENOUGH BARKING, KAIZER.
ASHE! THIS ISN'T YOUR BATTLE!!

YOU TOO, TEBOR STAND DOWN
LET ME GUESS
ARE YOU ZELM?

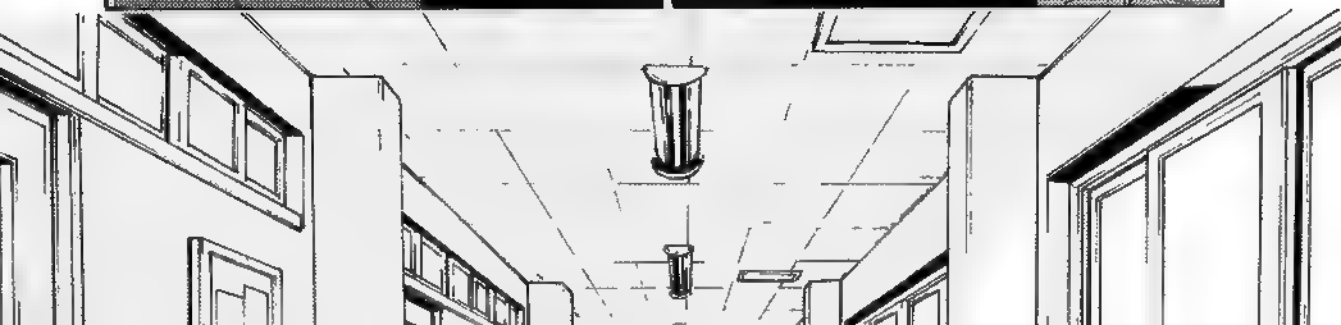
THIS IS OUR FIRST MEETING, KAIZER, THOUGH I'VE HEARD TALES OF YOUR PROWESS.


THERE ISN'T A SOUL IN THE MERCENARY INDUSTRY THAT DOESN'T KNOW YOUR NAME.
AN ELITE FIGHTER IN YOUR OWN RIGHT, BUT WHERE YOU REALLY STAND HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE ALL OTHERS IS YOUR TEACHING SKILL.

ZELM, THE "DEATH INSTRUC-TOR."


THEY SAY YOU'RE A GENIUS WHEN IT COMES TO INVENTING NEW WAYS TO KILL.

...
NO WONDER THEY'RE SO TOUGH.
AND EVERY MEMBER OF THE TRUMPS IS A PUPIL OF YOURS, I'M GUESSING.



DO
(СТИШКО)
DO
DO
URK!

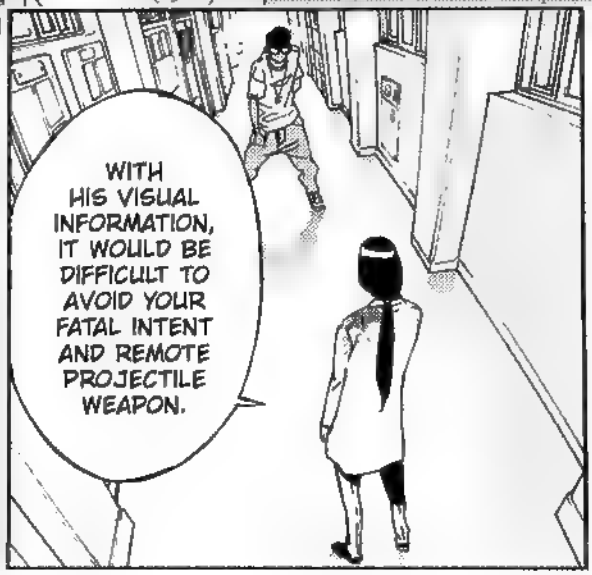
THIS TIME LAG— YES, IT MUST MEAN...
BUSHUUU (HISSS)
SO IT SEEMS WE BOTH MAKE USE OF WEAPONS THAT ARE DIFFICULT TO SPOT. AND NOT ONLY THAT...
DAMN, HE PARALYZED MY HAND...
SUK SHH)

ONE ROUND AND YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN THROUGH MY STYLE? DAMN, YOU'RE GOOD.

BOTH WEAPONS ARE SO SMALL AND LIGHT, THEY CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO KILL THE ENEMY INSTANTLY.

I HAD A CHANCE TO LOOK AT MAMORU HIJIKATA'S WOUNDS A BIT EARLIER, AS IT HAPPENS.

TRUE— SEEMED LIKE I GOT HIM PRETTY GOOD.

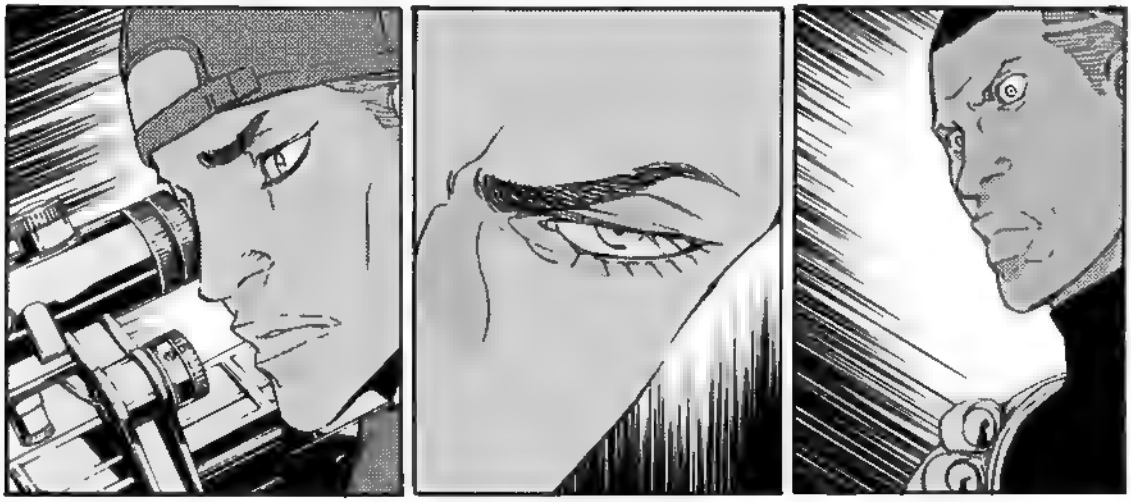

WITH HIS VISUAL INFORMATION, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO AVOID YOUR FATAL INTENT AND REMOTE PROJECTILE WEAPON.

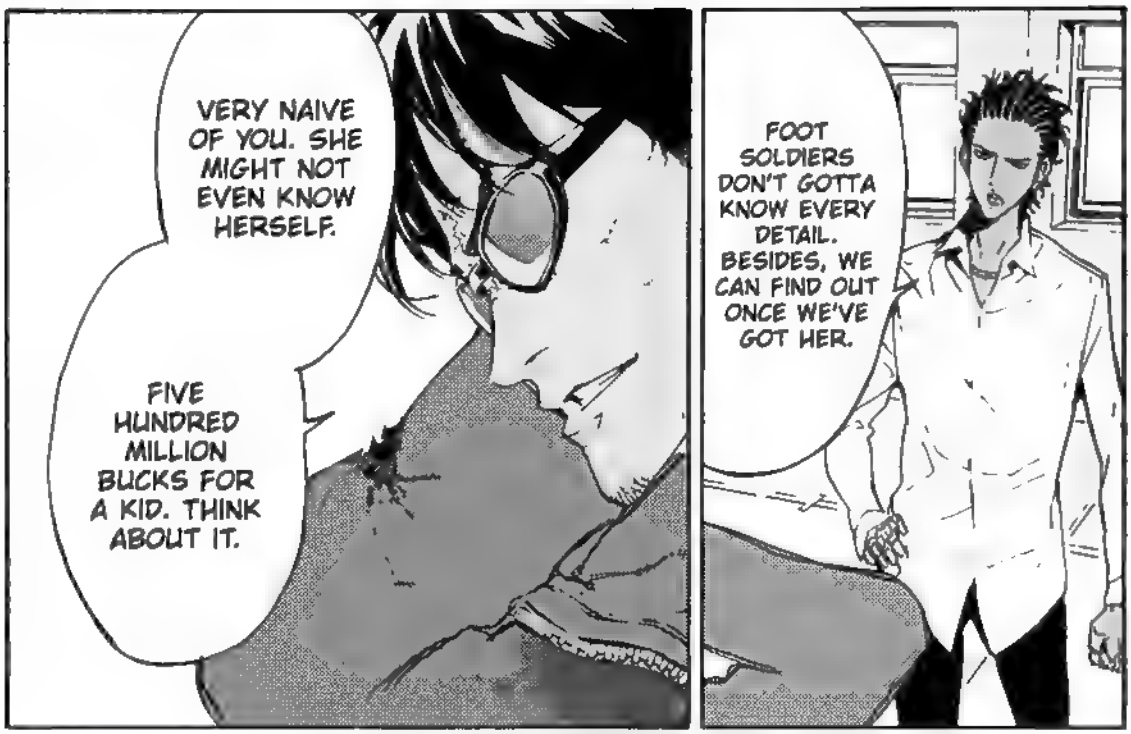
I DON'T KNOW...
WHAT I WONDER IS, HOW DOES HE SEE ANYTHING AT ALL?
...IT'S HIS ABILITY TO HURL IT DIRECTLY INTO THE LOCATION OF THE TARGET'S ATTEMPTED EVASION. HOWEVER ...
THIS ONE'S THREAT IS NOT IN THE UNKNOWN NATURE OF HIS WEAPON...
KURU (SPIN)
!?
...

WAIT!
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY FROM ME!
THESE ODDS ARE 40-60, LEANING AGAINST ME!
I'LL TRY SOMEWHERE ELSE.
HEH! ALL THESE FOLKS TAKE THIS SHIT TOO SERIOUSLY!

THERE'S SOME REASON BEHIND THIS, ISN'T THERE? ONE OF OUR GOALS IS TO KILL YOU.
WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT OF GIVING YOURSELF UP?
IS HE REALLY JUST GOING TO SURRENDER AND COME WITH US?
!?
I WANT TO TELL YOUR BOSS EXACTLY WHY EVERYONE'S AFTER HARUKA TOOYAMA.
HUH!?
THAT'S IT!?

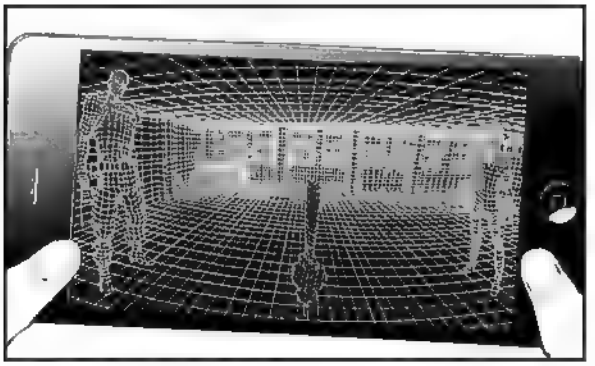
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHY YOU'RE UNDERTAKING THIS MISSION?



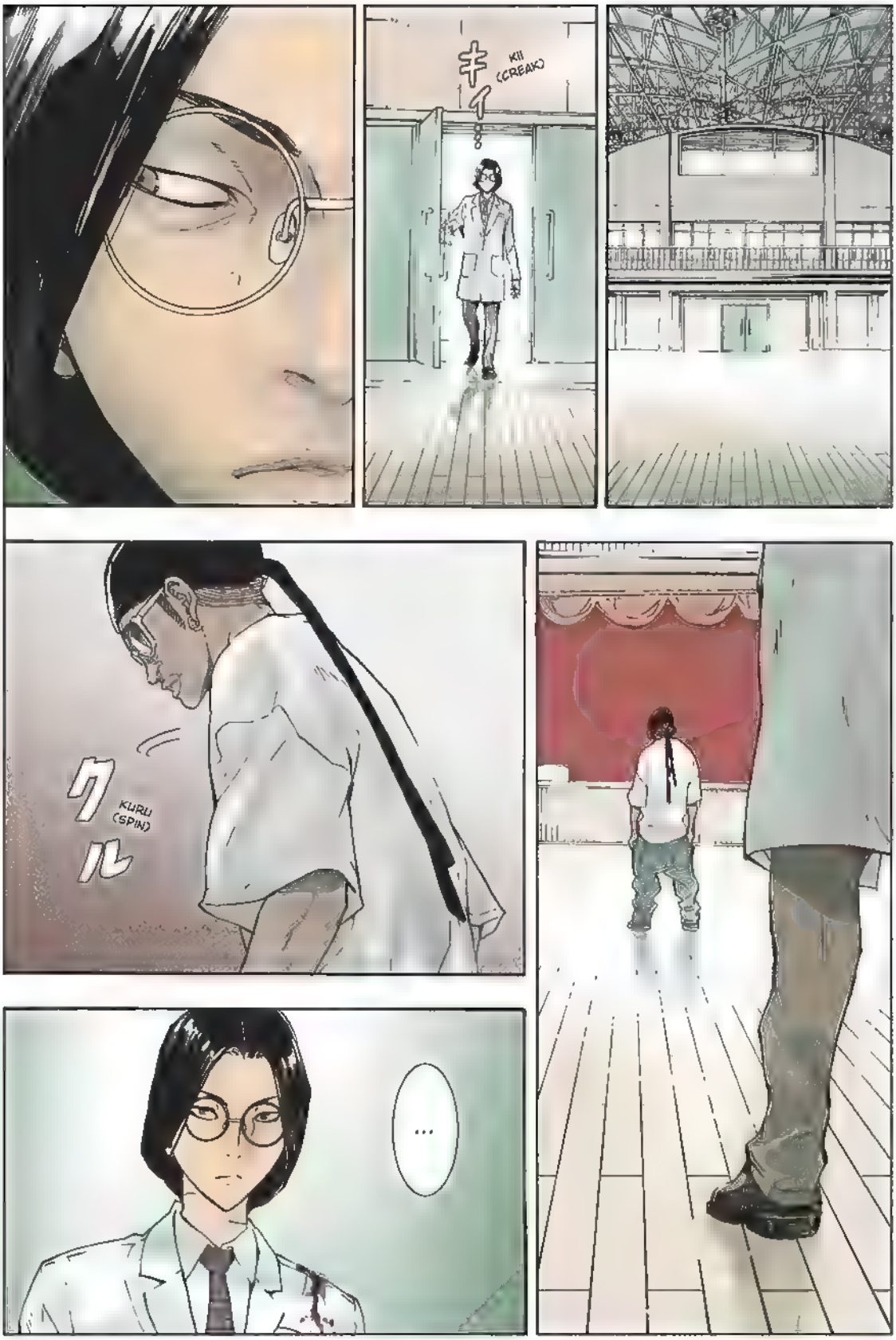

VERY NAIVE OF YOU. SHE MIGHT NOT EVEN KNOW HERSELF.
FIVE HUNDRED MILLION BUCKS FOR A KID. THINK ABOUT IT.
FOOT SOLDIERS DON'T GOTTA KNOW EVERY DETAIL. BESIDES, WE CAN FIND OUT ONCE WE'VE GOT HER.

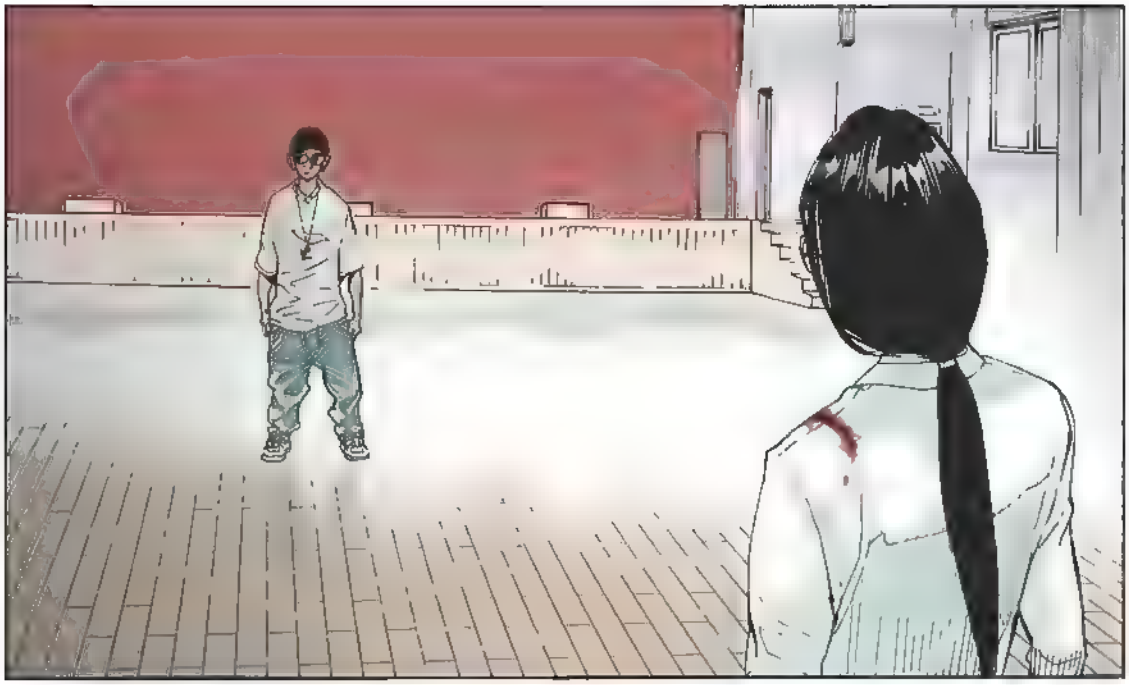
WHAT'S HIS GAME?
WE'VE GOT ALL THE SURFACE DATA ON HIM, BUT WE DON'T UNDERSTAND THE PERSON BEHIND THE SWORD.
SHE MUST HAVE A USE EVEN MORE VALUABLE THAN HANDING HER OVER TO TURUS.
NOW THERE'S SOMETHING A SIMPLE FOOT SOLDIER SHOULDN'T BE MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT.
WHAT THE HELL IS HE PLAYING AT?
I'LL GET CONFIR-MATION.
SHOOT HIM IF HE MOVES, SHIEDABRA.

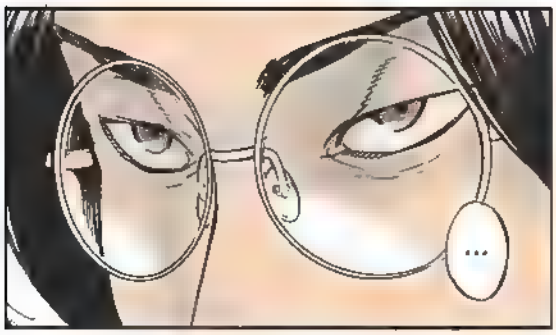
FORGET ABOUT WHATEVER HE'S PLOTTING. JUST EXECUTE THE MISSION AND KEEP IT SIMPLE!
THEY'RE GONNA BITE...



Until
Death
do us
Part


キィ
KII
(CREAK)
クル
KURU
(SPIN)
...

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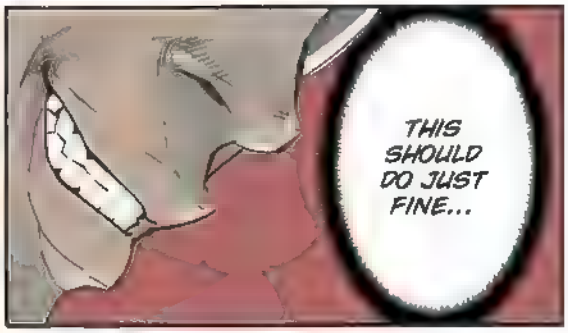
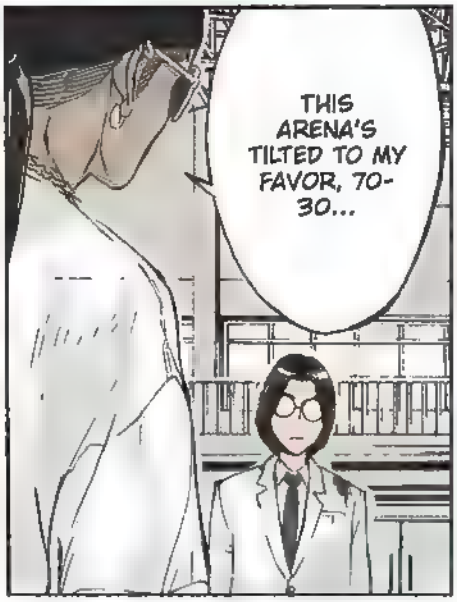

THIS SHOULD DO JUST FINE...


THIS ARENA'S TILTED TO MY FAVOR, 70-30...

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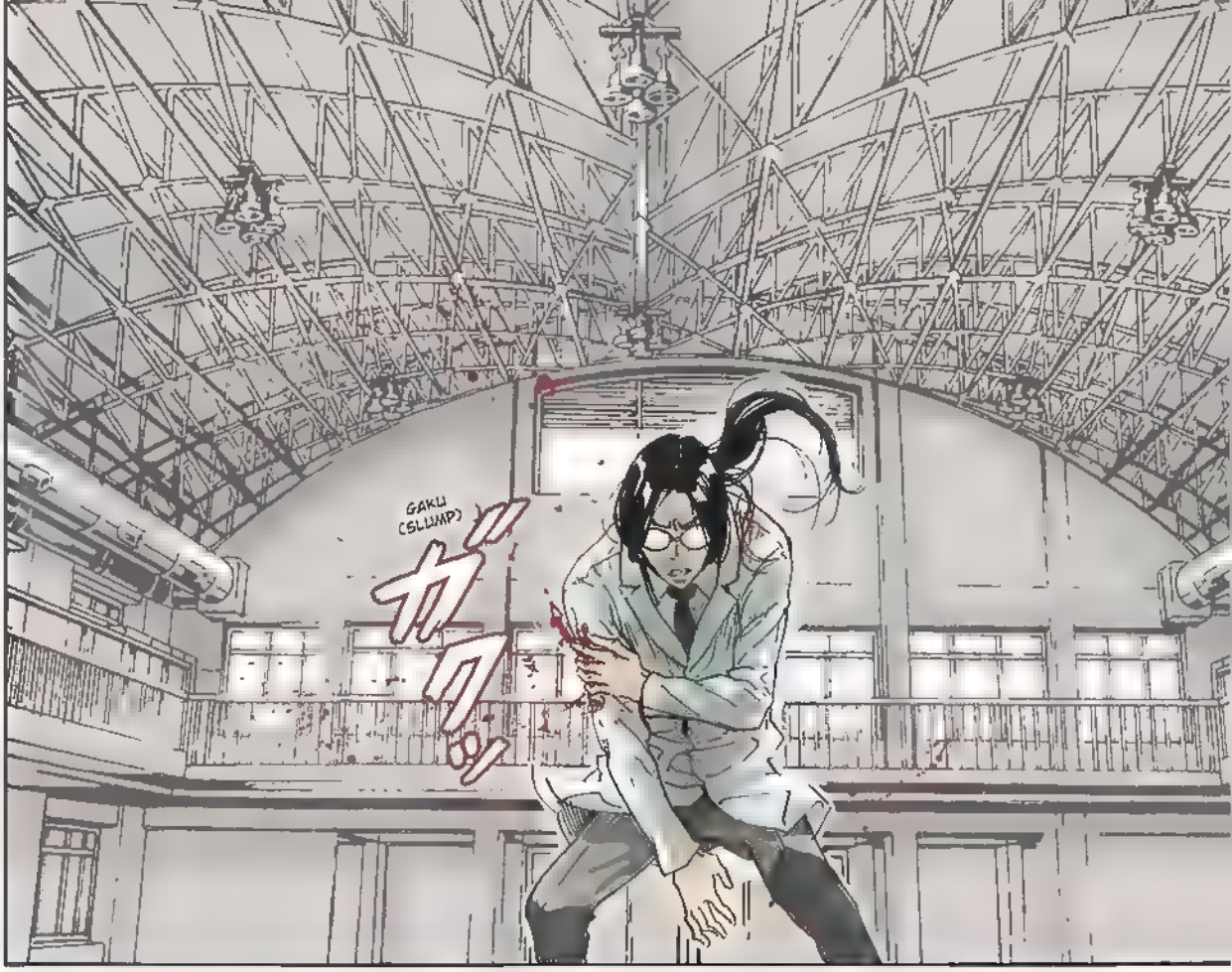
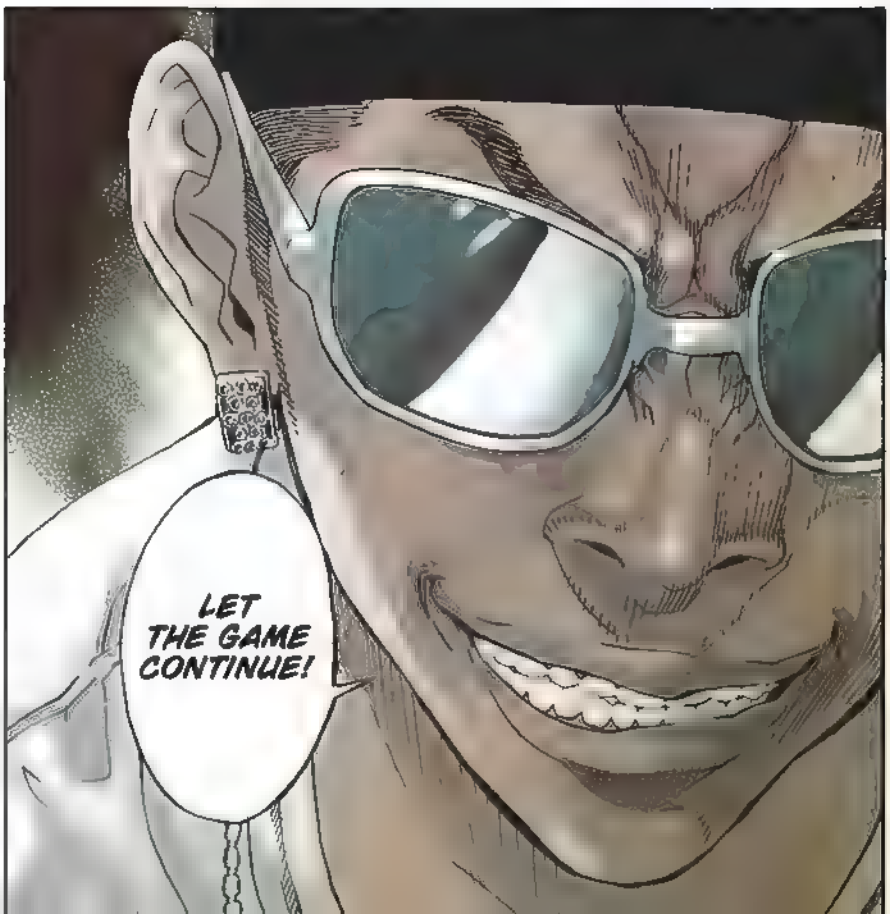

GAKU (SLUMP)
ガク


LET THE GAME CONTINUE!

AND NOW ...

...
AND WHY IS THE GREAT ZELM HERE?
FEELING OVER-PROTECTIVE OF YOUR OWN PUPIL? HERE TO SAVE HIM?
WHAT!?
YOU AND TEBOR SEEM TO MATCH UP A LITTLE TOO NICELY.
I MERELY CAME TO DELIVER A LITTLE WARNING.
YOU MAY THINK YOU'VE GOT A HOSTAGE, BUT SHE'S A FIGHTER TOO.
IT WON'T WORK.

DON'T HOLD BACK, INVISIBLE. GIVE HIM EVERY-THING YOU'VE GOT.
LET'S GO.
バタン

ヒュッ
ブオ
ドゴッ

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GA
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GA
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WHAT THE...?
WHAT IS THIS!?

!?
BUT IT'S ALSO HELPED ME UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF YOUR WEAPON.
YES, IT DOES SEEM THAT YOU HAVE THE ADVANTAGE HERE.
NICELY SPOTTED...
ONCE THROWN, IT WOULD BE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO DETECT WITH THE NAKED EYE.
YOU WIELD A BOOMERANG MADE OF A HIGHLY TRANSPARENT MATERIAL, BUILT AS THIN AS A RAZOR.

EVEN AS THIN AS IT IS, IT'LL STAND UP TO A BULLET, YET YOU CAN'T SEE IT WITH THE NAKED EYE.
IT'S A SPECIAL POLYCARBONATE THAT'S 99.97% TRANSPARENT WITH A REFRACTION INDEX OF ALMOST 1.0 EXACTLY.
THAT'S ENOUGH SHOWING OFF THE TRICKS OF THE TRADE.
チャッ CHA (CHAK)
NOT THAT HE'S AN EASY ENOUGH OPPONENT TO LET THAT CONFUSE HIM FOR LONG.
AND BECAUSE IT TRAVELS IN AN ARC, THE ANGLES OF YOUR INTENT AND THE ATTACK ITSELF ARE DIFFERENT.
IT WAS NO DOUBT AN EXCELLENT WEAPON AGAINST A FIGHTER LIKE MAMORU HIJIKATA AND HIS SHARP ABILITY TO SENSE AGGRESSION.

BA (SWOOSH)
IT'S TIME TO FINISH THIS!
BA
BA

THAT'S HOW I STRIKE!
IF HE MOVES A SINGLE STEP, HE WALKS RIGHT INTO THE TRAJECTORY OF ONE OF MY BOOMERANGS!

GA
ガ
GA
ガ
GA (HUAK)
ガ
GA
ガッ
!?

HE KNEW WHAT I WAS GOIN' FOR!?
BA (WHOOSH)
CAN'T HIT ME!
I WAS WAITING FOR THE SAME THING!!

WHA—?
A CHAKRAM?

YOU WANTED TO GET ME INTO A WIDE OPEN AREA TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE WIDE ANGLES, YES?
IT'S CALLED A "SANGAKEN"— A THREE-FANGED CIRCLE.
DOSA (THUMP)
I SEE... SO WHEN HE THREW THE NEEDLES, HE TOSSED THE CHAKRAM FROM BEHIND HIM.
IT'S BEEN A VERY USEFUL LESSON FOR ME...
KI (TIK)

HEH-HEH... NEVER WOULDA GUESSED THAT YOU'D BE CLEVER ENOUGH TO FOLLOW MY EXACT SAME STRATEGY.

I WILL PUT YOU AT EASE RIGHT NOW.

FORGIVE ME.
IT SEEMS THE BLOW WAS NOT FATAL.

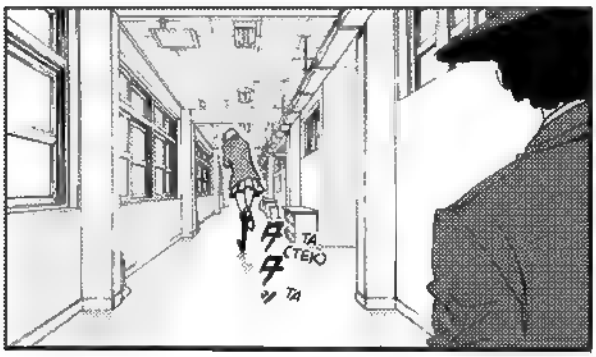
GYU (CHAFF)

BA (SPIN)
GAAAH !!
!?
I CAN'T LOSE...
HOW IS HE STILL ON HIS FEET!?

I CAN'T LET DOWN MY PEOPLE !!
BOTA (DRIP)
ポタ
BOTA
ポタ
...WHAT IS IT THAT DRIVES HIM...?

Until
Death
do us
Part

KO (TOK)
KO
DA (DASH)
BUSHU (BSHT)
KAAH!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TA
CTEKO
TA

THERE'S NO POINT.
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT BACK.

IT'S NO GOOD...
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW HE'S ATTACKING ME...

NO!
RUN AWAY !!

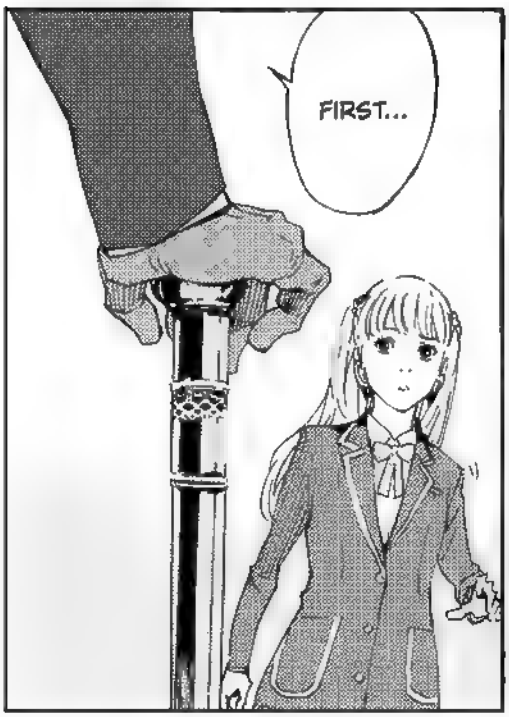
!?

!?
SU
(SWISH)

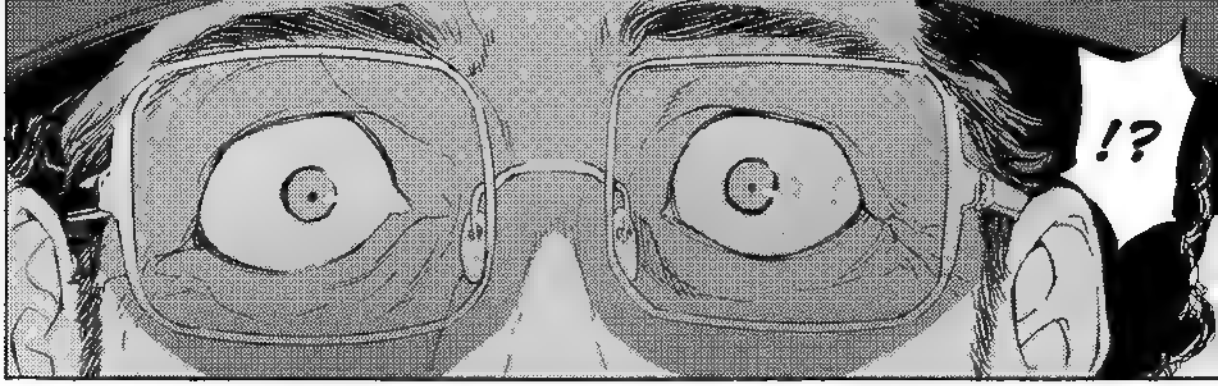
chapter 126

OHH...?
FANCY RUNNING INTO YOU HERE...

THIS MAN IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS ...


FIRST...

HYU (SWISH)
...I'LL NEED TO IMMOBILIZE YOU.
SA (ZSH)


!?

WHA
—!?

...

... CONCEN-
TRATE,
HARUKA
...
YOU KNEW
YOU'D MEET
HIM HERE!

HOW DID
SHE DO
THAT!?

2ND Army Realm
KAIZER !?
KU
H
IS THAT YOU, JESUS !?

SO YOU USED DARKNESS AGAINST THE INVISIBLE MAN...
...IT'S ALL MAKING SENSE ...
BATAN (CLICK)
IT'S THE GUY FROM BEFORE ...
NOT A BAD COUNTER-MEA-SURE!

SURE SEEMS LIKE YOU NEED IT TO ME.
I CAN MANAGE HIM ON MY OWN! I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP!
DAMN... I WAS GOING TOE-TO-TOE WITH HIM JUST MOMENTS AGO...
...AND THEN HE STARTED COMING AT ME TWICE AS FAST.
!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?

!?
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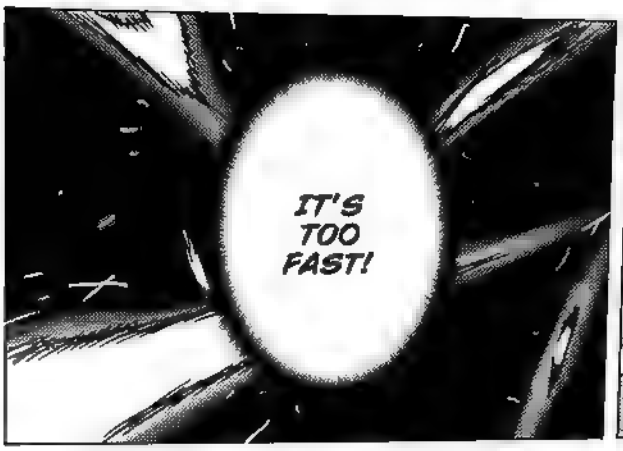
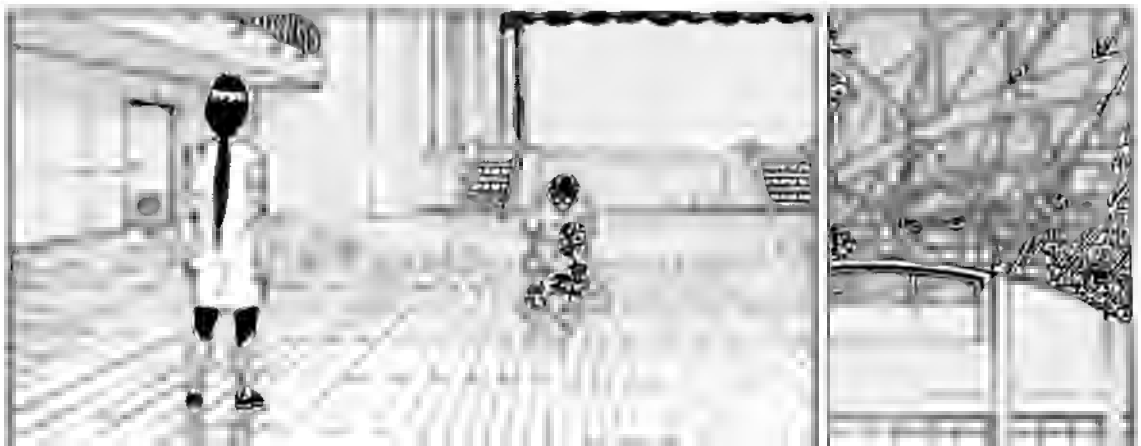

IT'S TOO FAST!

HOW THE HELL IS HE DOING THIS!?

!?
ガ
キ
SWISH
SWING

TAKE A SEAT!
WHY DON'T YOU!?

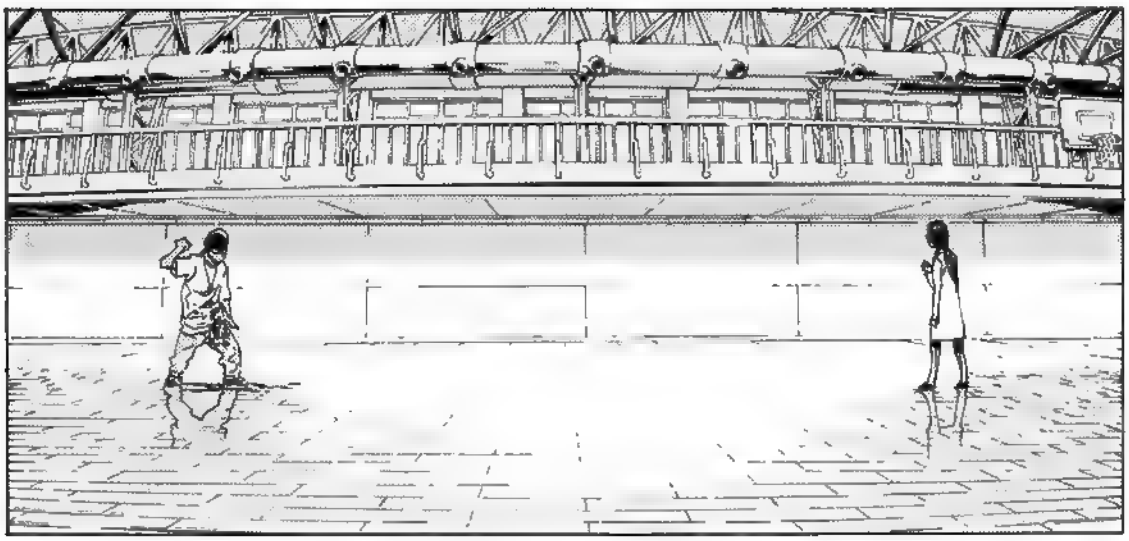


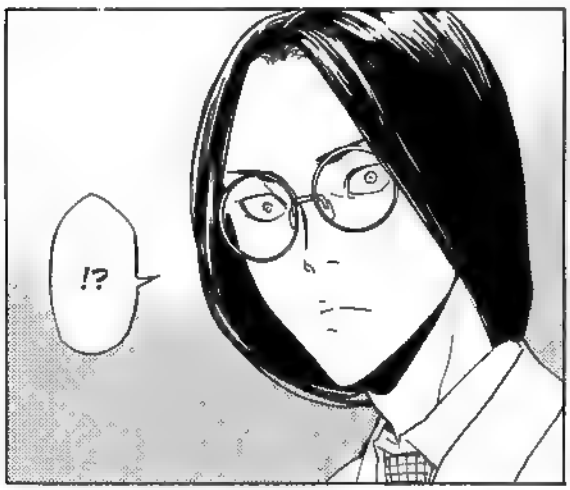
...HOW CAN HE EVEN STAND...?
I CAN'T LET MY PEOPLE DOWN.
I FINALLY GOT CHOSEN TO TAKE MY PLACE AMONG THE ELITE. IF I DIE HERE...
I'VE HEARD THAT THE REPUBLIC OF GALBOA STILL SUFFERS UNDER PRIMITIVE APARTHEID ...
!?
...I SEE...
...MY COUNTRY'S NEVER GOING TO TREAT MY PEOPLE WITH RESPECT.

I CAN'T SEND MY OLD MAN AND MY BROTHERS BACK INTO A LIFE LOWER THAN LIVE-STOCK!
...AND NO FOOD OR BREAKS FROM MORNING TO NIGHT!
WE GOT NO MODERN FARMING, WE WORK IN MINES WITHOUT EQUIPMENT ...

...IN A WAY, HE IS A HOSTAGE HIMSELF ...
GIMME YOUR BEST SHOT!!
I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS THAT BAD...

QUICK AND PAINLESS.
I WILL PUT YOU AT EASE VERY SOON ...
SU (SWD)
スッ
THEY ARE JUST LIKE ME...

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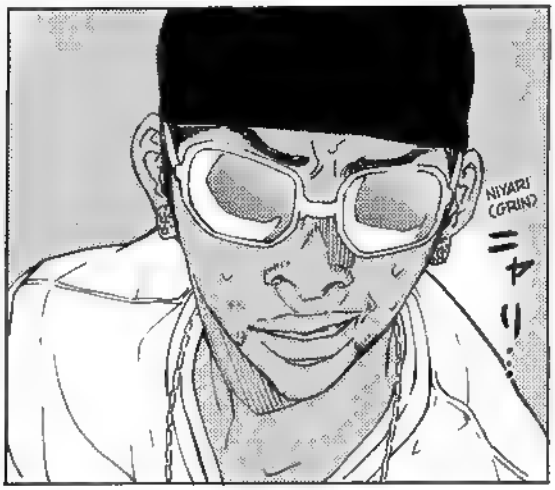
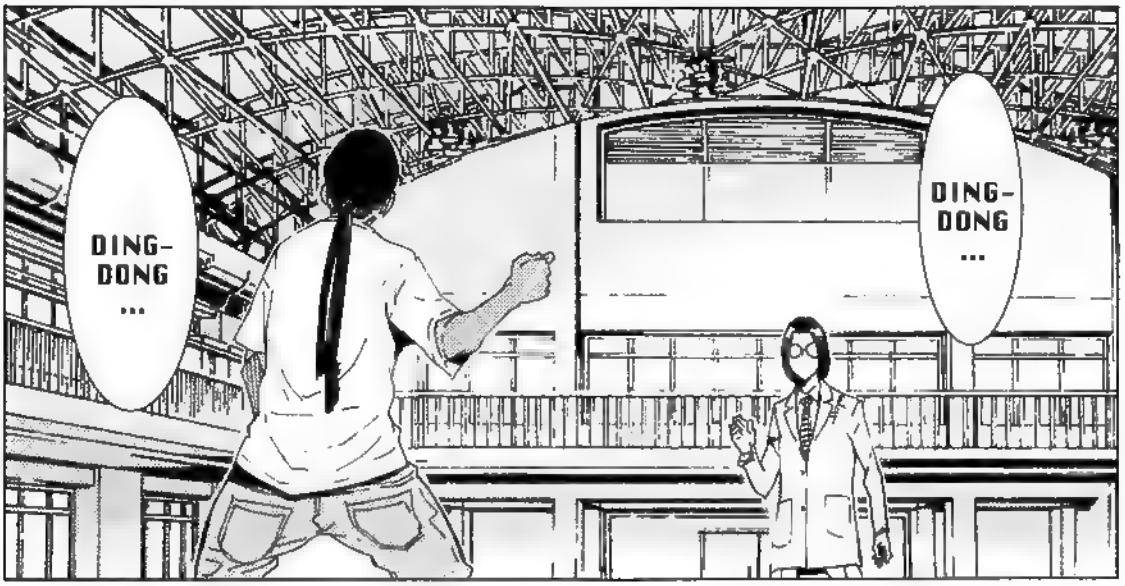
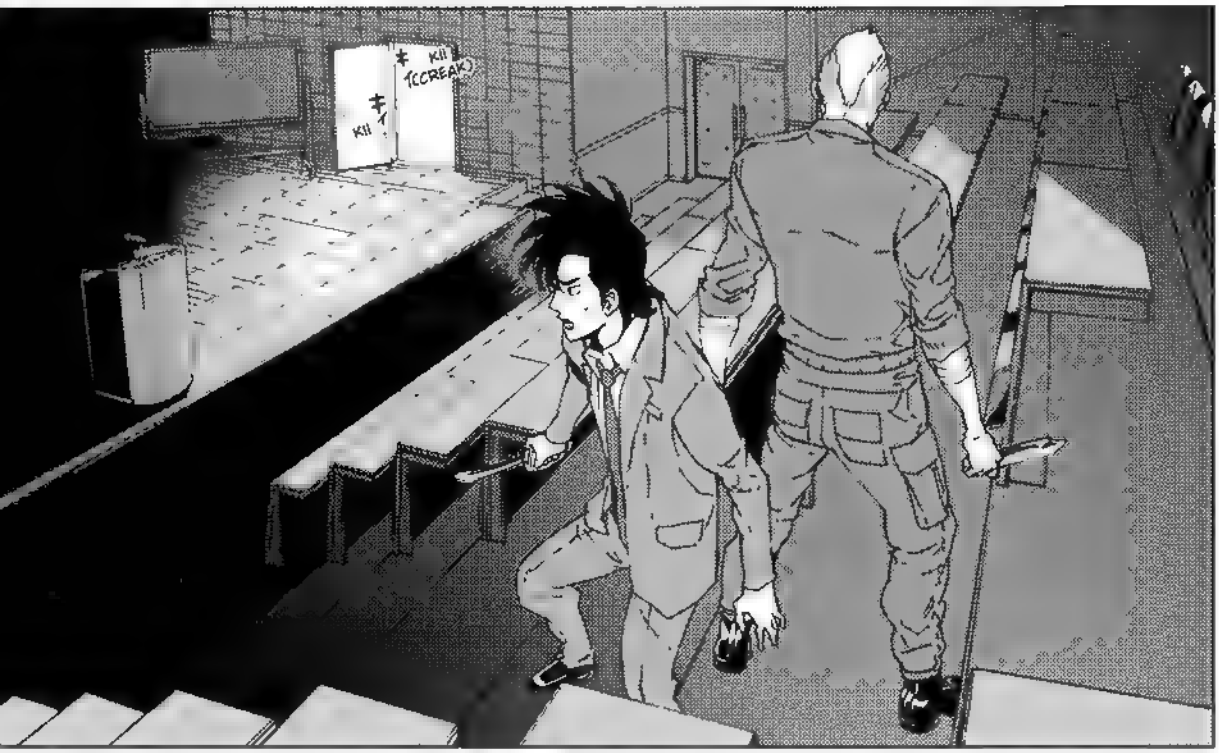

NIYARI (GRIN)
ニヤリ


DING-DONG ...
DING-DONG ...

DING-
DONG
...
...
DING-
DONG
...
...
クルッ
KURU
(SPIN)

TOO-YAMA-SAN!?
WHEW...

...


KII (CREAK)
キィ
KII

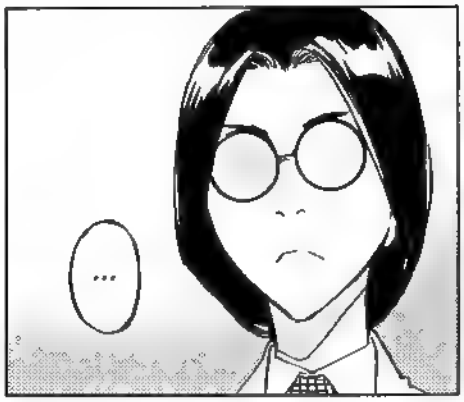
THAT WAS ABSOLUTELY INHUMAN...
I'VE NEVER FELT SO OVERPOWERED ...

KAH...

TWO OF US WORKING TOGETHER WEREN'T ENOUGH TO STOP HIM...

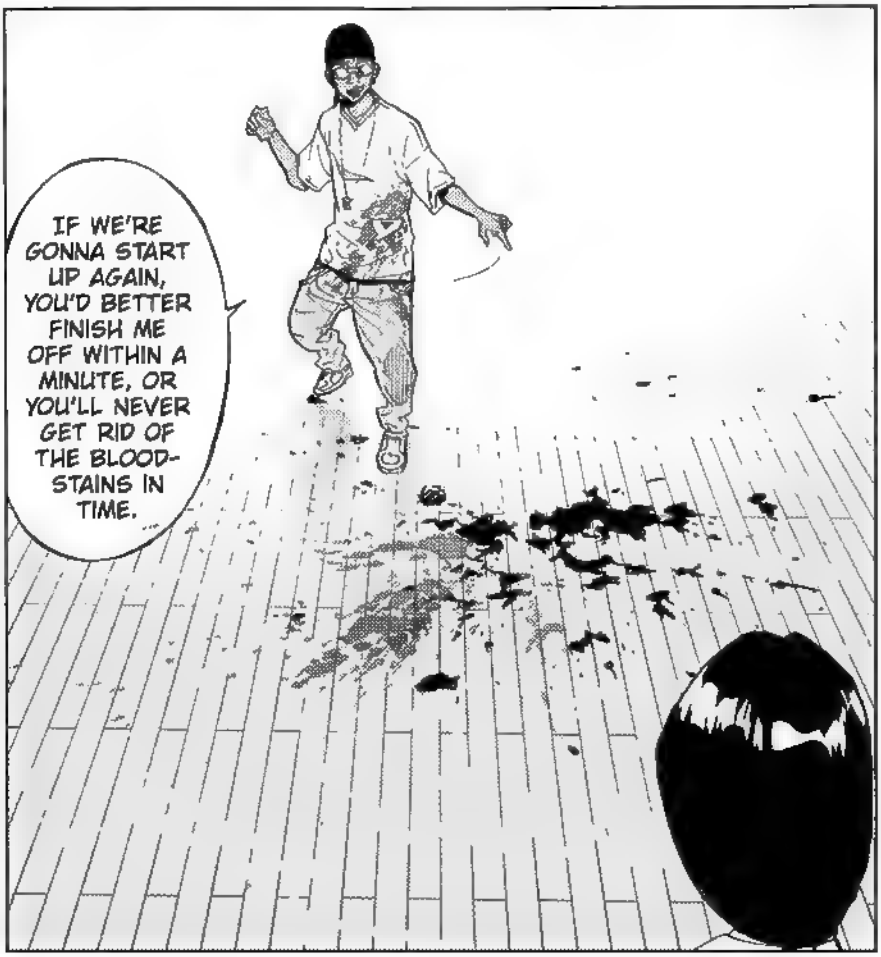
JIRI (PAUSE)
JIRI...

TO BUY TIME FOR ME TO RECOVER A BIT.
...WHY WOULD YOU TELL ME THAT...?


...

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN NOW?
THE STUDENTS ARE GONNA SHOW UP AND START PANICKING REAL SOON.

TA (HOP)

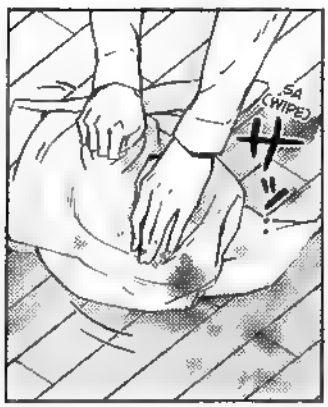

IF WE'RE GONNA START UP AGAIN, YOU'D BETTER FINISH ME OFF WITHIN A MINUTE, OR YOU'LL NEVER GET RID OF THE BLOOD-STAINS IN TIME.

...

THOSE BOXING RULES WERE A PAIN IN MY ASS EARLIER ...
...BUT IRONICALLY ENOUGH, THIS TIME THEY WERE WHAT SAVED ME. SEE YA AROUND.

QUITE A HARDY FELLOW.

BASA (SHWUP)


SA (WIPE)

BATAN (THUMP)
I SUPPOSE THIS MEANS THAT EVERY ONE OF THEM FIGHTS FOR THE SAME PASSIONATE CAUSE...
GAYA (MURMUR)
ガ
GAYA
ガ
WHAT IS IT, WAU?
BEEP-BEEP!

...!!
...YES, I SEE ...
THE GIRL'S SECRET ...

MAMORU-SAN! COME IN, PLEASE!
TA (TEK)
TA
TA

THE THIRD LECTURE HALL!
WHERE'S SHE GOING!?

BATAN (SLAM)
SIGN: CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS
工事中注意

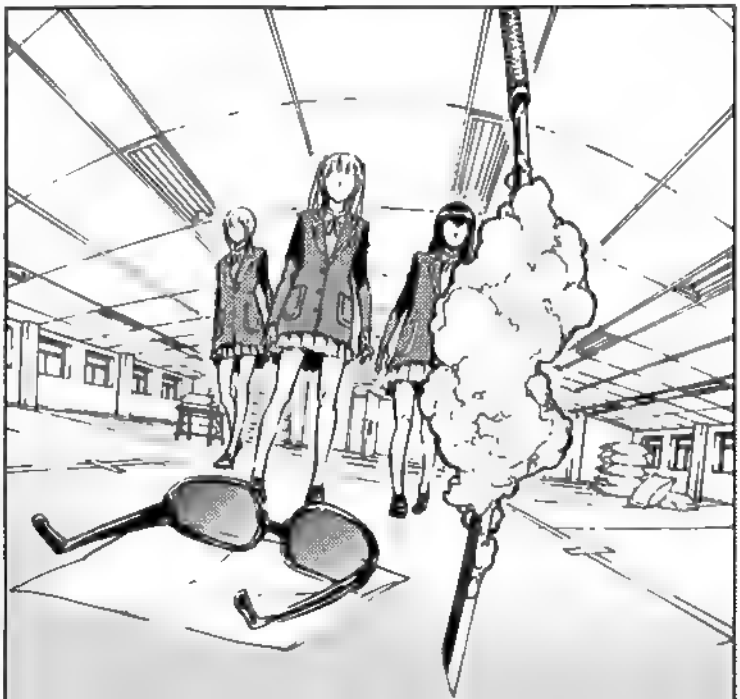
Until
Death
do us
Part

chapter 127

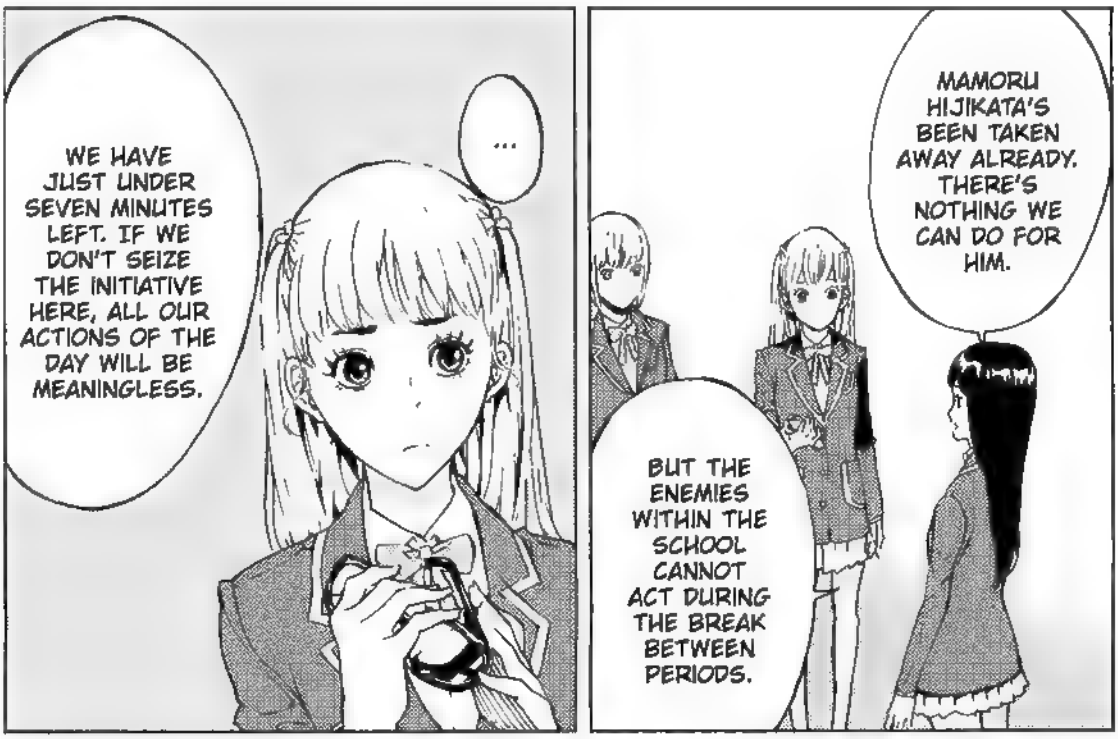
N'Sinh reporting in. I'm down. Gotta jet.
You able to leave on your own?
ONE HOSTAGE AND ONE INJURED. THAT LEAVES US EVEN.
FOR THE DIFFICULTY OF BEING ON THE OFFENSIVE IN THIS PLACE, I'D CALL THAT A GOOD START.
I can manage ...
...IF HE'S NOT GETTING RESULTS, HE'LL SWITCH TO THE NEXT PLAN PRETTY QUICK.
BUT KNOWING ZELM...

AHH...
THAT'S NO FUN.

スゥ
SUU (SIGH)



...
THERE'S NO TIME FOR HESITATION.
...AH...


WE HAVE JUST UNDER SEVEN MINUTES LEFT. IF WE DON'T SEIZE THE INITIATIVE HERE, ALL OUR ACTIONS OF THE DAY WILL BE MEANINGLESS.
...
MAMORU HIJIKATA'S BEEN TAKEN AWAY ALREADY. THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO FOR HIM.
BUT THE ENEMIES WITHIN THE SCHOOL CANNOT ACT DURING THE BREAK BETWEEN PERIODS.

...
WHAT WILL YOU DO!?

...

YOU STILL ALIVE?
OF COURSE I'M GOD-DAMN ALIVE!
HEY...
... WHAT ...?
DON (WHAM)
HOW CAN SUCH A MERCILESS ATTACK BE POSSIBLE WITH HUMAN REFLEXES !?
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT ABOUT!? TWO OF US TOGETHER, AND WE WERE BARELY A MATCH FOR HIM!

!?
...
JUST LOOK AT THE STATE OF THIS PLACE. IT'S A MESS.
WE OUGHT TO CLEAN IT UP.
I'D GUESS WE CAN MANAGE TO DELAY THE START OF THE NEXT CLASS BY ABOUT TEN MINUTES.

THEY'VE TAKEN MY STUDENTS HOSTAGE— THE ENTIRE SCHOOL, IN FACT.
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
YOU'RE NOT JUST GOING TO LET THEM GET AWAY WITH THIS, ARE YOU!?
THERE'S A PRICE TO BE PAID FOR THAT KIND OF VILLAINY.

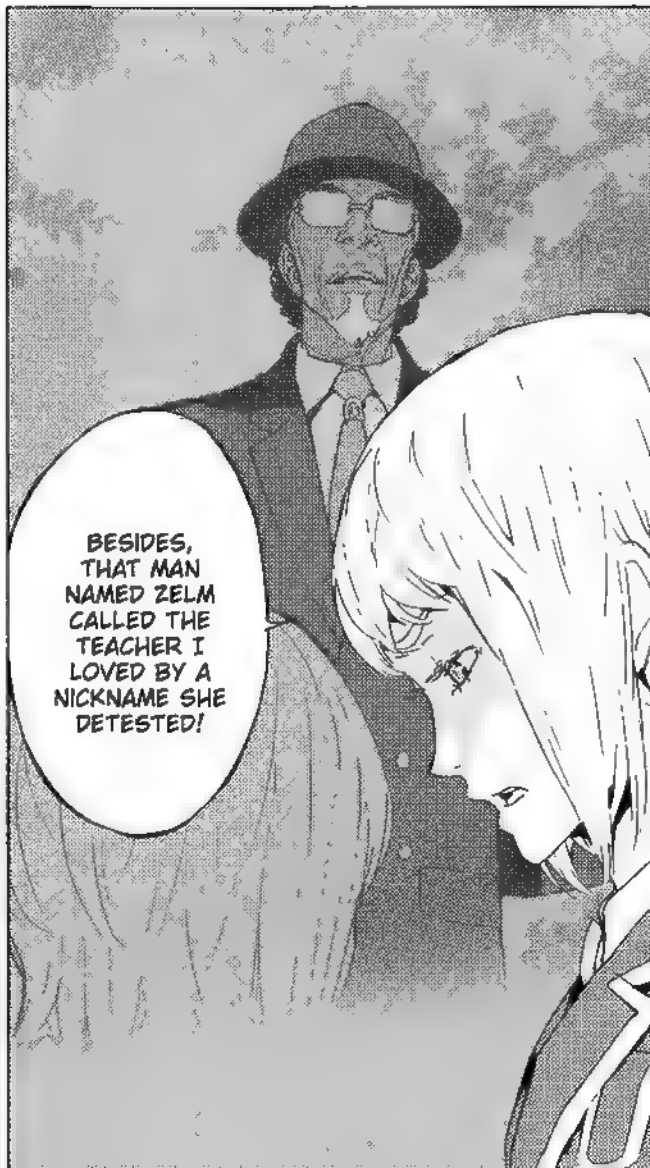
...THE START OF THE NEXT CLASS IS WHAT DETERMINES MY LIFE OR DEATH
I'M DONE FOR IF I DON'T ESCAPE NOTICE AND MAKE IT OUTTA THE BUILDING

A MESSAGE FROM THE ENEMY.
WHAT DID YOU JUST HIDE?
!?

WE CAN'T LET TOOYAMA-SAN SEE THIS. IT WILL ONLY TRAUMATIZE HER.
ONE OF HIS MOLARS... SEEMS LIKE IT BROKE AND POPPED OUT FROM A GOOD PUNCH...
ARE YOU GOING TO LET THIS PLAIN OLD TEENAGER CALL THE SHOTS?
WHAT'S THE PLAN, PROTECTOR?
WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHY DO YOU FEEL LIKE HELPING UNDER SUCH CIRCUM-STANCES?
...

IT'S AN ISSUE... OF PRIDE ...
...
THAT DOESN'T FIT THE "24" I KNOW.

I CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH THAT WITHOUT A PROPER RESPONSE.


BESIDES, THAT MAN NAMED ZELM CALLED THE TEACHER I LOVED BY A NICKNAME SHE DETESTED!

IF YOU DO WANT TO BEAT HIM, CAN YOU FOLLOW MY ORDERS?
WHAT !?
I'M CERTAIN YOU CAN'T, BUT YOU'RE CLEARLY NOWHERE NEAR STRONG ENOUGH TO HURT HIM.
...HOW-EVER...
I GUARANTEE YOU THAT IF YOU TEAM UP WITH US, YOU CAN STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THE TRUMPS AND JESUS.
HOW-EVER?

...
THE PLAN WILL BE BUILT UPON THAT PREMISE, SO IF YOU CANNOT HOLD TO THAT CONDITION, YOU WILL DIE.
THE ONLY CONDITION IS THAT YOU MUST NOT INTENTIONALLY KILL THE ENEMY.
JUST... GIVE ME A MOMENT ...

ASHE!?
I CAN WORK FOR YOU AS LONG AS OUR INTERESTS ALIGN.
VERY WELL.
OKONOGI-SAN KEEPS INSISTING THAT SHE MUST VISIT TOOYAMA-SAN AT THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE.
FIRST YOU SAY NOT TO WANDER AROUND BECAUSE IT'S DANGEROUS, THEN YOU DISAPPEAR ...
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
JUST MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO.

!?
ALL RIGHT. TAKE CARE...
TELL HER THAT TOOYAMA-SAN'S DECIDED TO GO HOME EARLY.
...
WHAT IS IT —?
HERE, USE THIS.
!?

FOLLOW MY ORDERS FROM NOW ON, AND YOU'LL STAND A CHANCE OF WINNING. JUST TRUST ME.
...
...TWO MORE MINUTES ...

?

HERE, GARA!
POI (TOSS)

STICK THAT INTO THE MOLAR I BROKE EARLIER.

ZELM'S ORDERS.

THAT'S ONE OF THEM EVIDENCE-DESTROYING BOMBS THAT GALBOA LIKES TO USE.
...

Until
Death
do us
Part

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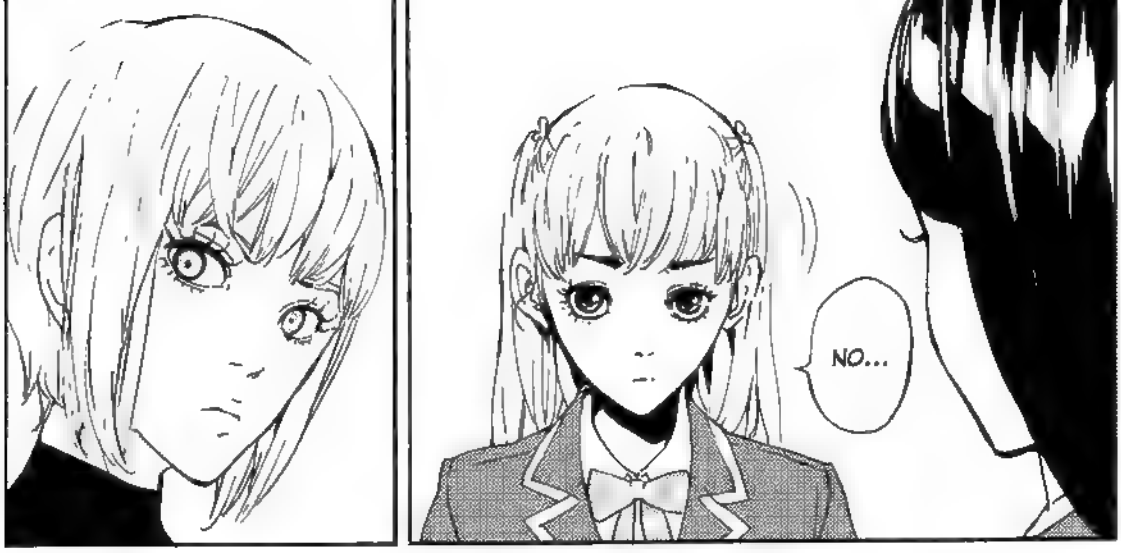
KEEP THE STEPS IN MIND AND FOLLOW ALL ORDERS WHILE VISIBLE FROM THIS PRECISE SPOT.
THIS IS WHERE WE PREPARE.
ARE WE GOING TO CHALLENGE THEM HERE?

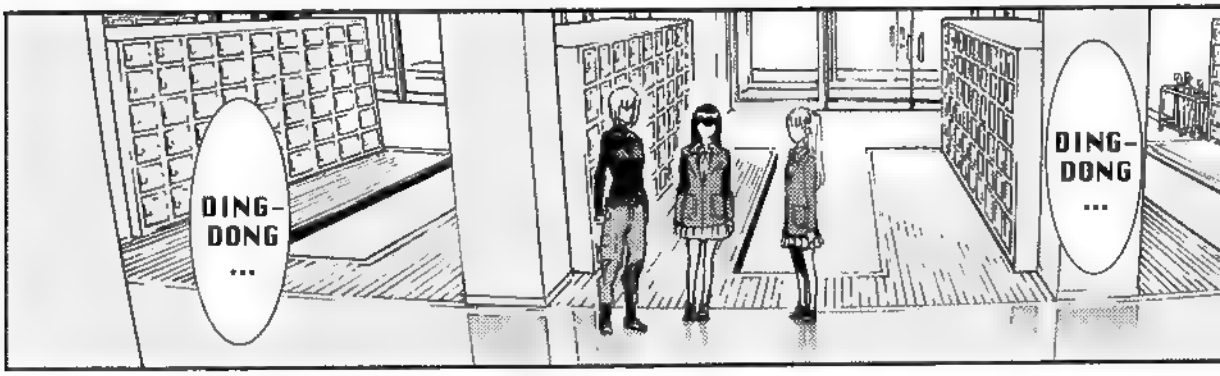
WELL...
CAN YOU PULL IT OFF?

IF YOU FAIL, YOU COST MAMORU HIJIKATA HIS LIFE...
I KNOW THAT!
BUT...
IF YOU DON'T THINK YOU CAN, YOU MUST STOP NOW. I CANNOT FORCE ANYONE TO OBEY MY COMMANDS.
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN PUT BOTH OF YOU THROUGH THAT KIND OF—
!?
SU (SHH)
QUIET.
...IF I FAIL, I'LL BE EXPOSING NOT JUST MAMORU-SAN, BUT ASHFORD-SAN AND KITAGAMI-SAN TO DANGER AS WELL.

IT'S TRUE THAT ONE MISSTEP IN THIS PLAN CAN PLACE ALL THREE OF OUR LIVES IN DANGER.
BUT...
I WON'T DEMAND THAT YOU IGNORE THAT.
BUT FOLLOWING THE RULES OF THE UNDERWORLD, IT'S NATURAL TO RISK YOUR LIFE WHEN THE TIME COMES TO WAGER SOMETHING.
...BOTH SHE AND I LIVE IN THIS PERILOUS WORLD.
...
THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO SURVIVE.

KITAGAMI-SAN...
IT'S UNFAIR, HARSH, AND MERCILESS
BUT THIS INCLUDES YOU AS WELL.
THAT'S JUST HOW THE CRIMINAL UNDERWORLD WORKS
I THOUGHT YOU UNDERSTOOD THAT ALREADY. WAS I WRONG?
YOU CANNOT MAKE YOUR WAY THROUGH THE WORLD WITHOUT FIGHTING FOR YOURSELF.

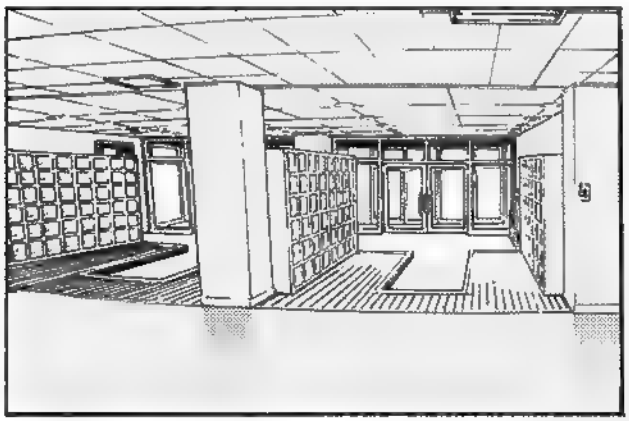

NO...

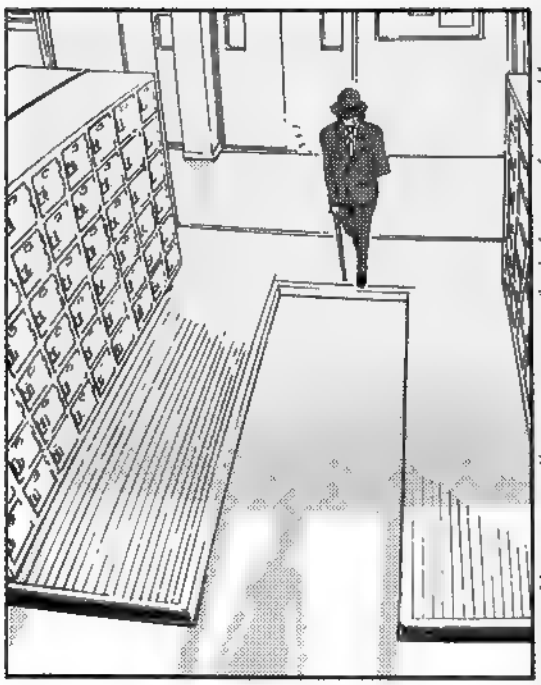

DING-
DONG
...
DING-
DONG
...

IT TRULY IS A DANGEROUS WORLD OUT THERE...
...

KURU (SPIN)
クル...

BUT STILL, THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE MAMORU-SAN AND KITAGAMI-SAN IN IT.
I'M SORRY.
IT'S YOU WHO HAS TO DEAL WITH THE TRULY DIFFICULT STUFF AHEAD.
I THINK SHE GOT THE MESSAGE.
...
THAT'S NOT QUITE TRUE.
YOU DIDN'T WIND UP IN THIS WAY OF LIFE BY CHOICE EITHER.

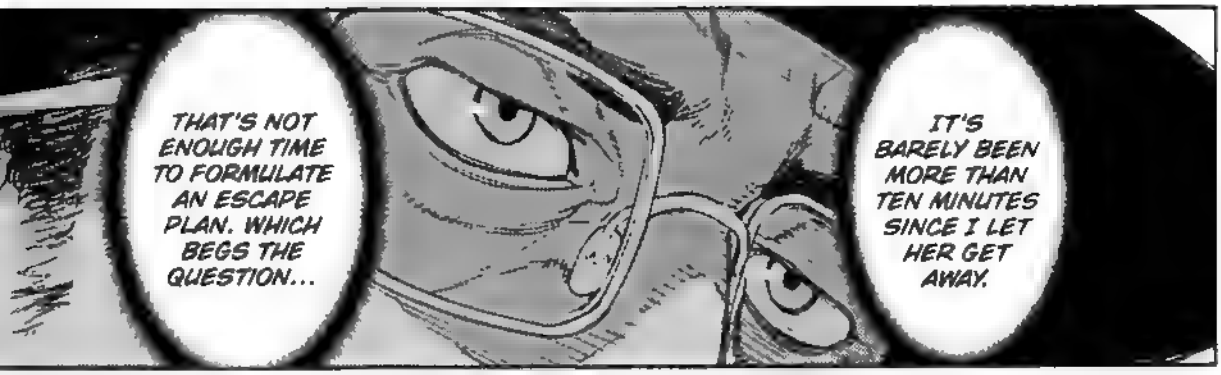




...

KO (TOK)
ゴッ
KO
ゴッ

AHH...SO YOU STAND BEFORE ME, KNOWING FULL WELL YOUR DISADVANTAGE IN THE MATTER?
VERY FRIGHTENING.


IT'S BARELY BEEN MORE THAN TEN MINUTES SINCE I LET HER GET AWAY.
THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TIME TO FORMULATE AN ESCAPE PLAN. WHICH BEGS THE QUESTION...

...WHAT'S SHE PLOTTING?
HOW DID YOU KNOW WE WERE PULLING BACK?

WHILE YOU PASS OUT THE FRONT, YOUR MEN EACH MAKE THEIR OWN ROUTE OUT OF THE BUILDING.
A CLASSIC CASE OF THE LEADER ACTING AS DECOY FOR THE SAKE OF HIS INJURED MEN. AM I WRONG?
...
...
NOW I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU.
INVISIBLE MAN ASIDE, WHY DIDN'T YOU ATTACK THE OTHER INJURED, IF YOU KNEW WHAT WE WERE DOING? IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN EASY TO FINISH THEM OFF.
...
THAT'S RIGHT.

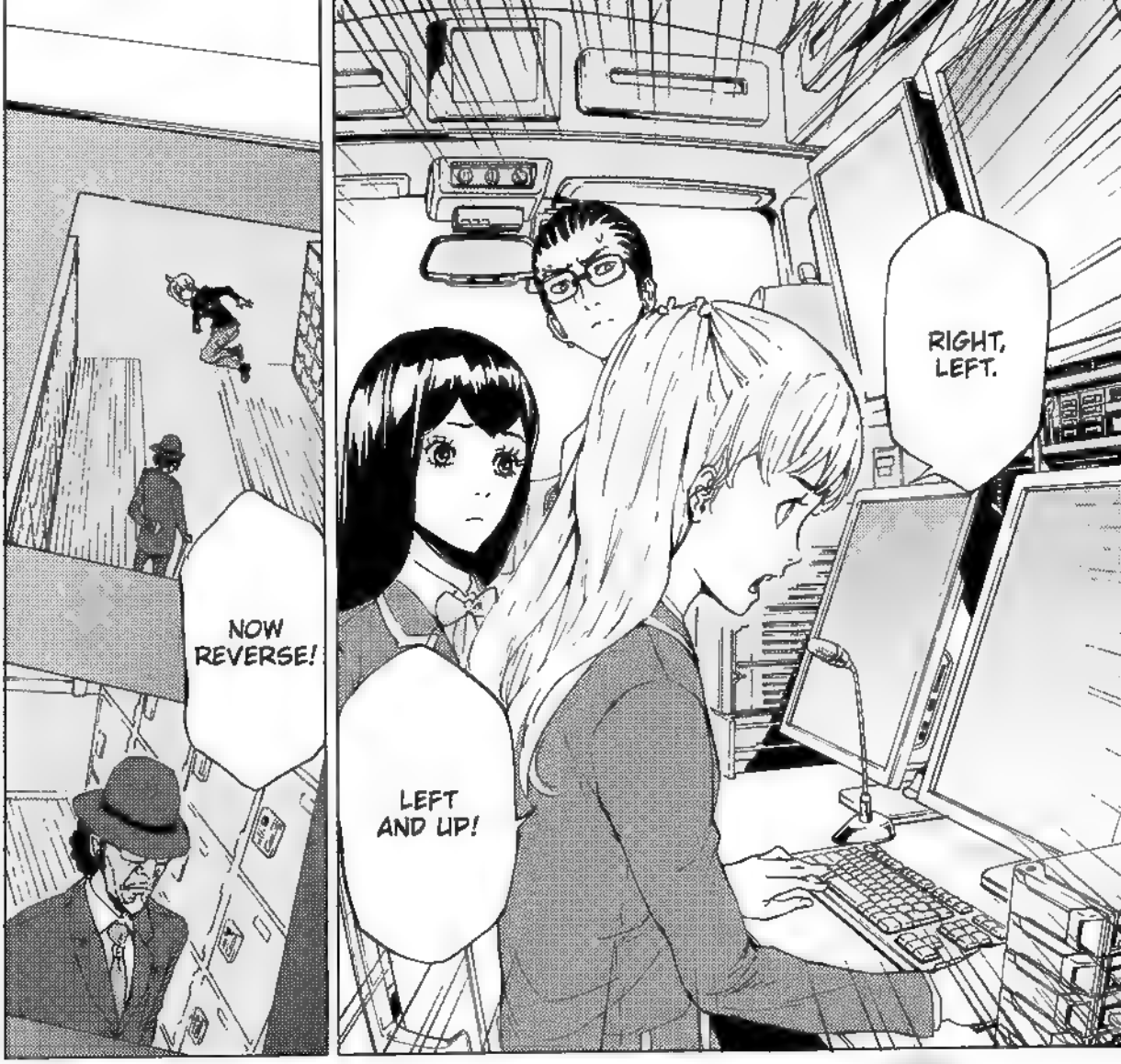
AHH.
SO YOU'RE WORKING ON SOME-ONE ELSE'S ORDERS.
BECAUSE IT NEEDS TO BE YOU, APPARENTLY.
WHAT ?
SO... YOU'RE TAKING ME HOSTAGE?
IT SEEMS YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHO YOU'RE UP AGAINST.
SU (SWISH)
YOUR HALF-DEAD FOLLOWERS AREN'T WORTH ANYTHING AS HOSTAGES.

!!
GIVEN YOUR IGNORANCE, I THINK A LESSON IS IN ORDER.
Jump to the right.

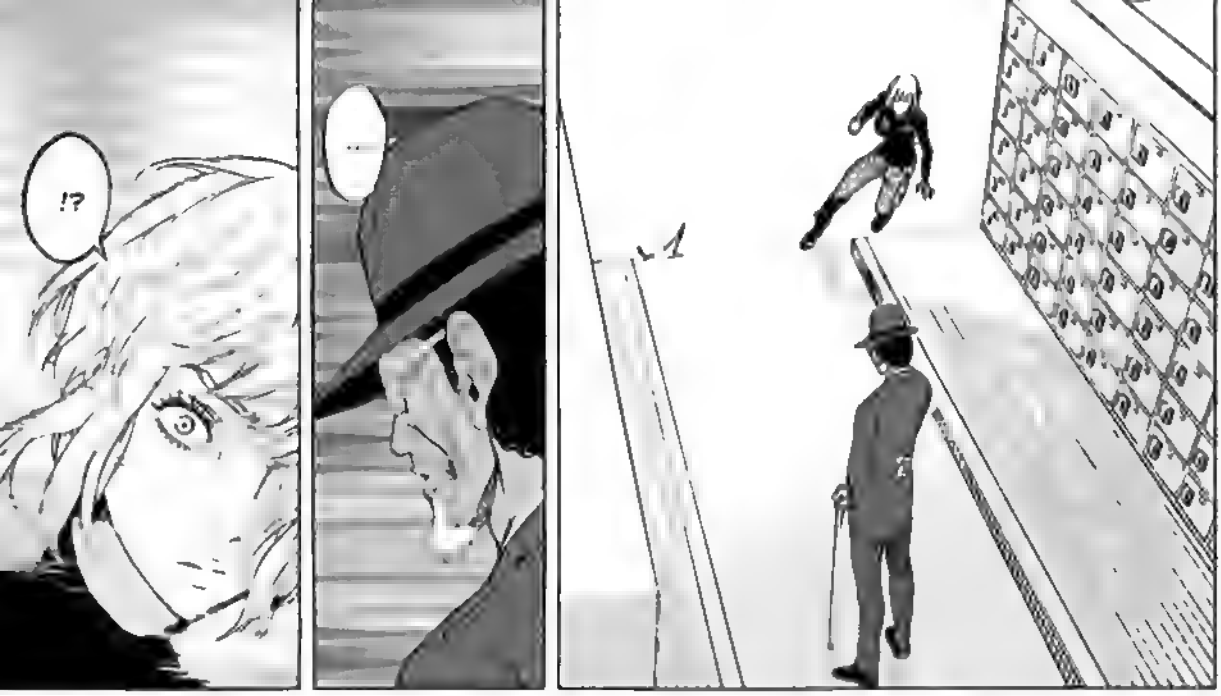
KA (TAK)
KA
KA
KURU (SPIN)
BA (LEAD)

Left.
Down.
Right.
Jump back-ward!
GA
GA (TAK)

I THINK...I'M GETTING THE HANG OF IT..
Jump back!!
Left.
Left, left.
GA
BUT HOW CAN SHE SEE THESE THINGS!?


NOW REVERSE!
LEFT AND UP!
RIGHT, LEFT.

HOW THE HELL DID WE GET INTO THIS SITUATION !?
...THEN A GIRL CLAIMING TO BE AEGIS'S PARTNER SHOWS UP.
FIRST MAMORU GETS KIDNAPPED...


!?
...

...AND SHE LEAPS AND JUMPS ABOUT WITH WILD ABANDON.
SHE SEEMS TO HAVE NO IDEA HOW I'M ATTACKING ...

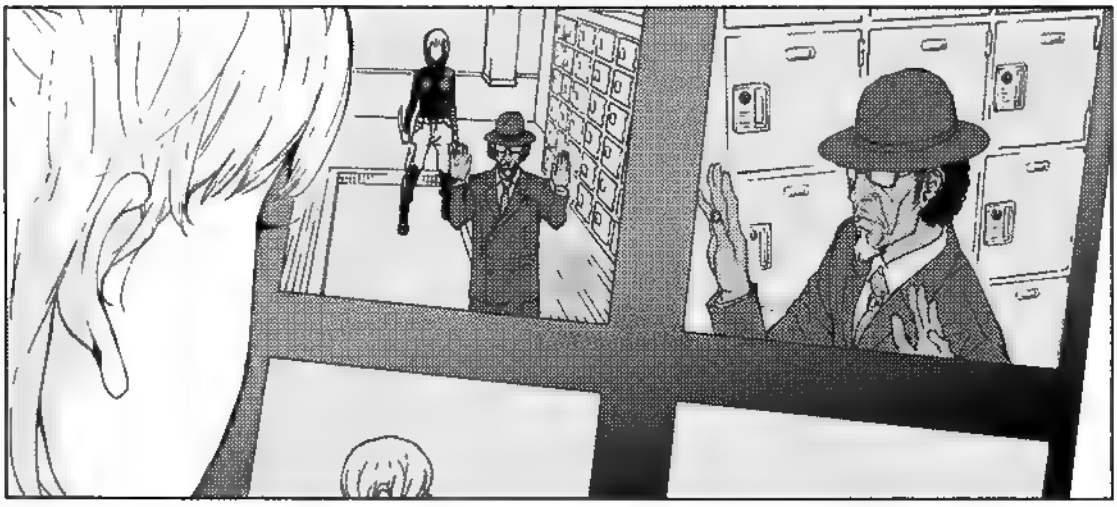
THERE MUST BE A REASON.
SO HOW IS SHE EVADING MY EVERY STRIKE?

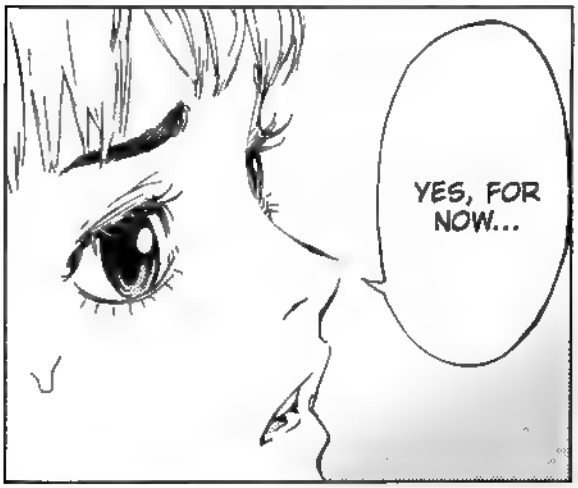
!?
カラン
KARAN (CLUNK)
WHA ...?

YOU MAY TAKE ME HOSTAGE.
VERY WELL.

AREN'T YOU GOING TO TIE ME UP?

WHAT IS HE THINKING ?




YES, FOR NOW...

PHEW...
IS IT... OVER?

IF HER POWER ALLOWS HER TO PICK OUT A FUTURE POSSIBILITY AMONG COUNTLESS SHIFTING OUT-COMES...

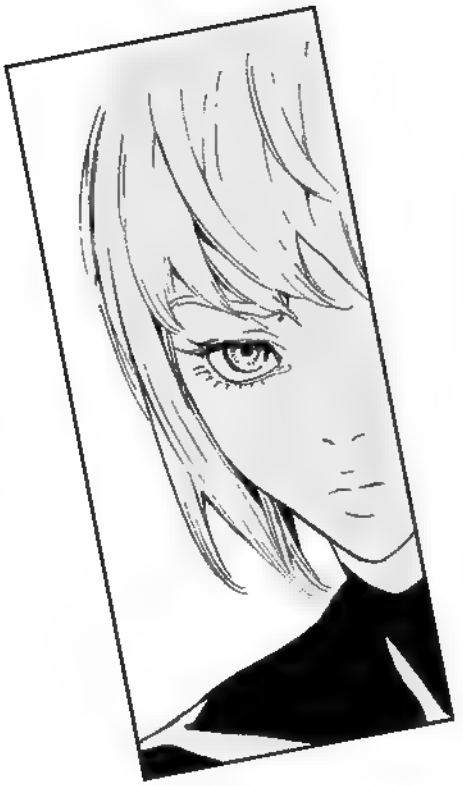
THINGS REALLY DID PLAY OUT AS SHE SAID.

...THEN IT'S NO WONDER THOSE IN POWER WOULD DESIRE THAT ABILITY.
...
ONE WRONG STEP, AND MAMORU HIJIKATA AND THE REST OF US WILL ALL DIE.
KOKU (NOD)
I KNOW.
BUT THE CRITICAL MOMENT IS COMING UP SOON. ZELM WON'T GO DOWN EASILY.
UM, WHAT!?
TIE HIM UP AND BRING HIM HERE, ASHFORD-SAN.

AM I GONNA GET HOME IN ONE PIECE THIS TIME?
OH, MAN...
H-HEY, YOU DIDN'T RUN THIS PAST ME FIRST!
I'M SORRY, IGAWA-SAN. WE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO TALK IT OVER.
HAA (HUFF)
HAA

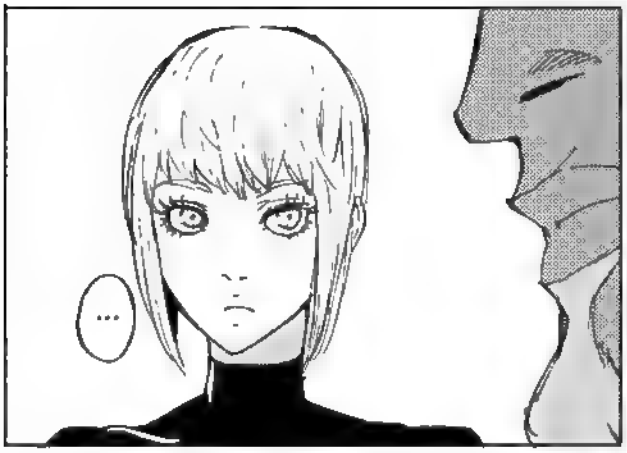
...
スゥ
SUU (SHH)
ガ
GA (SNAG)
BA (SPIN)

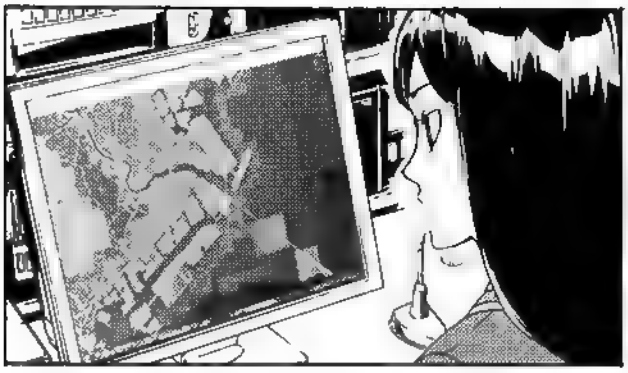
JESUS!?
DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD THREATEN MY STUDENTS AND WALK AWAY ALIVE?
KAH
AAAH
グ
グ
グ

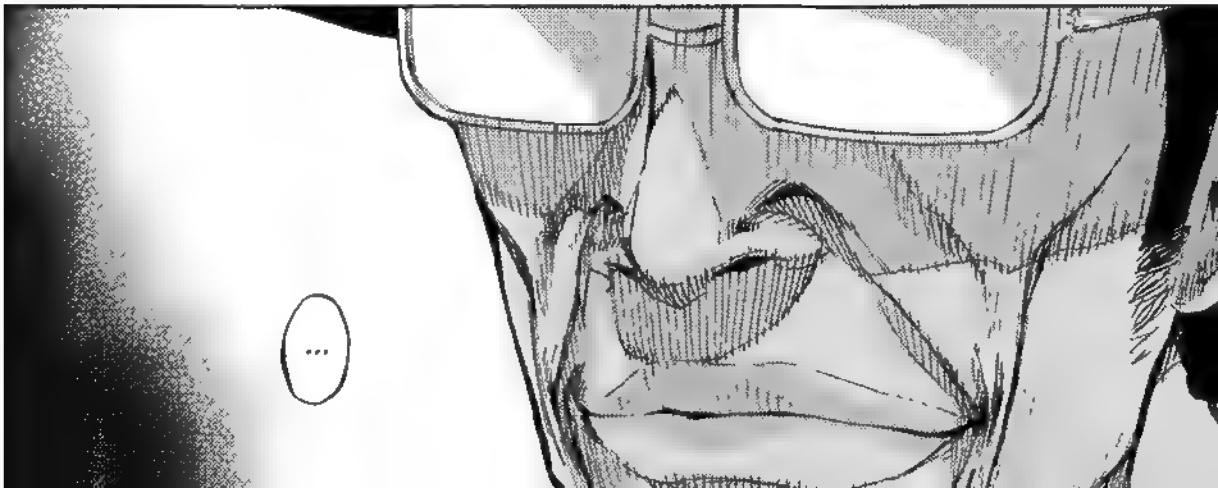


Until
Death
do us
Part

チラッ
CHIRA (PEEK)
ブオオ
BUOOO (VROOM)
...



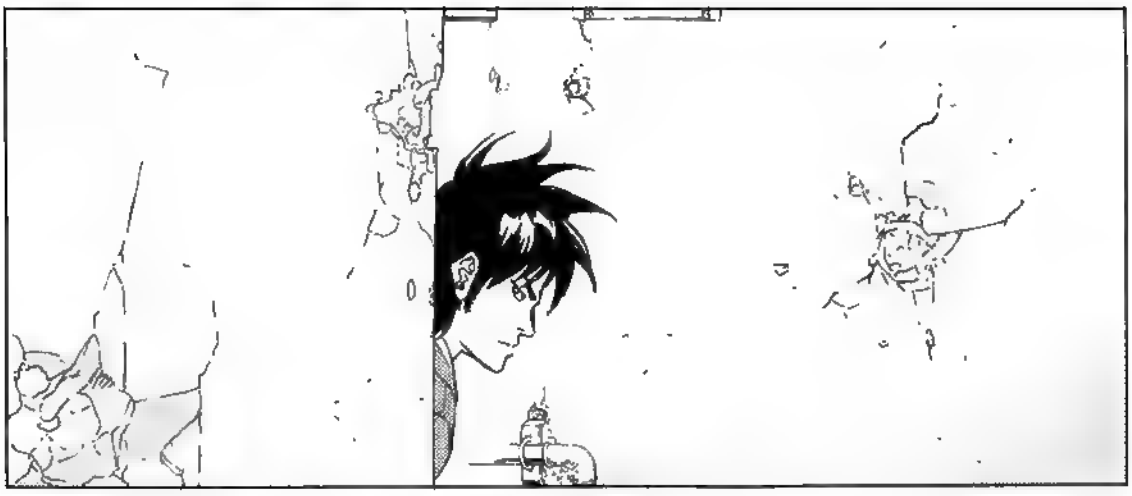


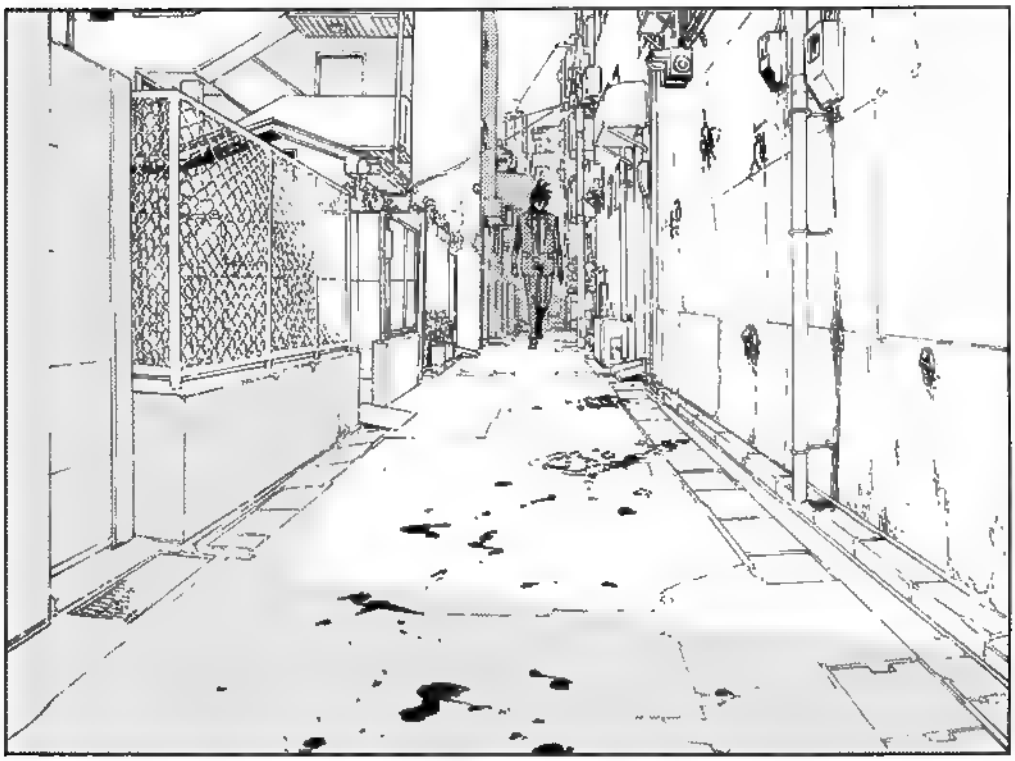


chapter 129

GUH ...
グッグッグ
AM I GONNA DIE!?
!?
BA (PUD)
TAAN (POW)

BA
TAN
TAN
TAN
WAS THAT SHIEDABRA !?
IF ZELM HADN'T GIVEN THE ORDER, I'D LEAVE YOUR WOUNDED ASS BEHIND!
TSK... WASTE OF MY DAMN TIME.





...

HMPH
...

I DON'T IMAGINE HE'S THE TYPE OF GUY WHO'LL BE STRAIGHT WITH US.
AND YOU THINK WE CAN REALLY TRUST HIM?
...

IT'LL BE FINE.
IF HE'S CONFIDENT IN THE MEMBERS WHO WOULD COME FOR HIM, HE WOULDN'T BE AFRAID OF US. I DON'T BELIEVE HE THINKS LITTLE TRICKS ARE NECESSARY.

SHE SHOULDN'T BE MUCH TROUBLE UNDER NORMAL CIRCUM-STANCES
COMBAT WISE, THESE TWO ARE NO ISSUE
BUT HER...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND HER...

SHU
SHU
GA
(SNAG)

HRRM
...
!?

I CAN'T READ AHEAD ...
...

ブオオオ
BUOOOO (VROOM)
SU (SHH)
...
SA (SWISH)
DON'T YOU DARE!

!?
YOU CAN EVEN SEE THAT ...?
スッ
CHRS
HE NEVER SHOWED ANY SIGN OF TRICKERY.
WHO IS SHE!?
THIS IS BEYOND THE REALM OF JUST HAVING A HUNCH!

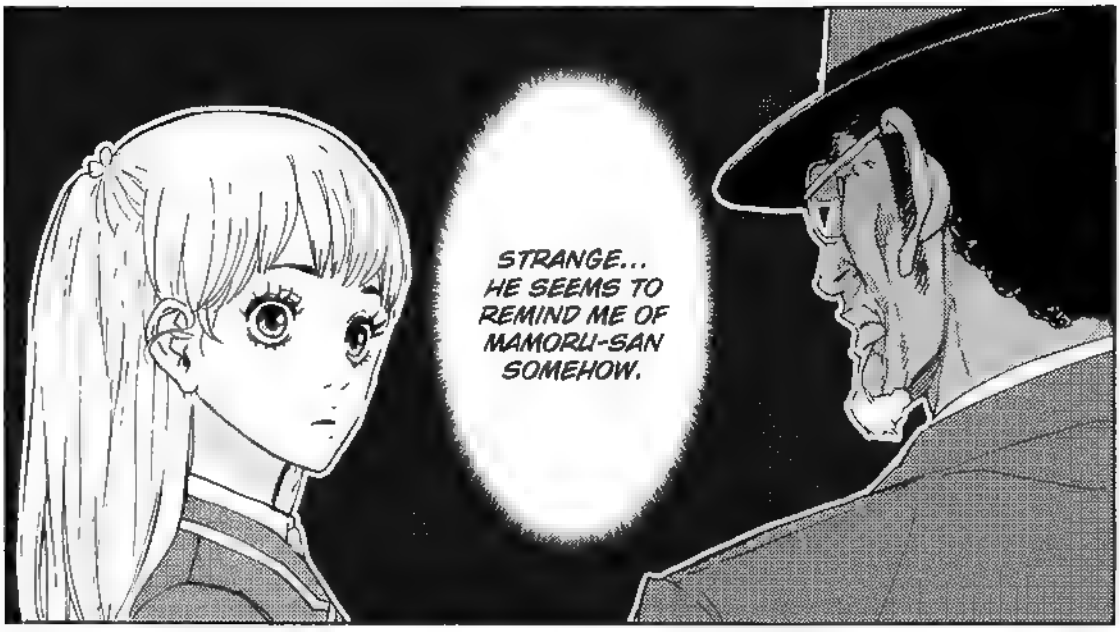
WHAT IN THE WORLD DID THAT SAMURAI TEACH YOU?
BUOOO (VRRM)
ブオオ
BASED ON YOUR HISTORY, IT MUST BE EXTRA-ORDINARY.
MOSTLY, THE PROPER MINDSET FOR A BATTLE-FIELD.
KEEPING MY MIND WORKING, CONTROLLING MY FEAR— STUFF LIKE THAT.
... CONTROL ?

HE TAUGHT ME TO MAINTAIN A CERTAIN LEVEL OF UNFAMILIARITY WITH FEAR SO THAT I COULD KEEP IT UNDER CONTROL.
UMM, IF I GET TOO SENSITIVE TO FEAR, IT CAN CONTROL ME AND LEAD ME TO DESTRUCTION.
BUT IF I GET TOO USED TO IT AND GROW NUMB, THAT MIGHT ACTUALLY EXPOSE ME TO MORE DANGER, I THINK.
HEH-HEH...
NOTHING MUCH MORE THAN THAT...
AND THAT'S IT? WHAT ELSE?
I SEE.
SO HE STARTED YOU WITH LESSONS ON MENTALITY, RATHER THAN TECHNIQUE... INTERESTING.

THERE MUST BE BROAD TRUST AND SOME KIND OF "AFFINITY" WITHIN HER.
BUT NO NORMAL GIRL OF THIRTEEN YEARS COULD FATHOM THOSE CONCEPTS. EVEN IF YOU EXPLAINED THEM TO HER...

...WITH THIS SAMURAI .....

NOW I WISH TO MEET AND TALK...
...


STRANGE... HE SEEMS TO REMIND ME OF MAMORU-SAN SOMEHOW.

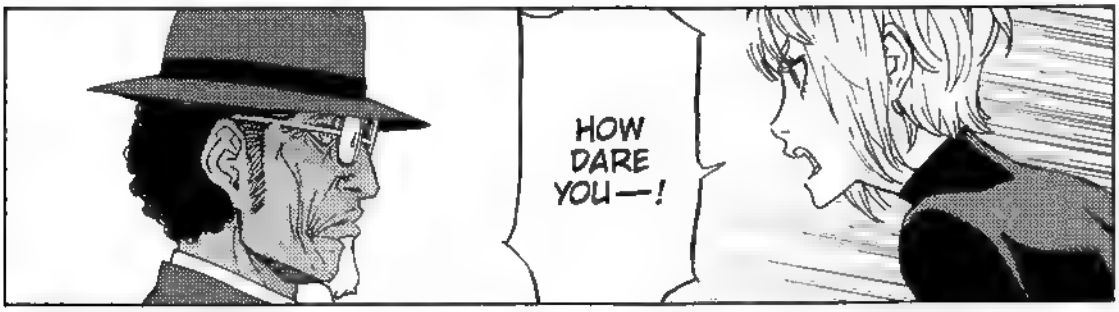
...

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY HAVE ANY INTEREST IN MY CUSTODY.

SO... WHY ARE YOU DOING ALL OF THIS?
... GOOD QUES-TION...

DISCIPLE OF "TIGER."
!?
THAT'S CORRECT. IF I DIDN'T HAVE MY ORDERS, I WOULD NOT PAY YOU A SECOND GLANCE.
BUT AT THIS MOMENT, I'M VERY CURIOUS. ONE OTHER THING...
I'M AWARE THAT YOU WERE ABDUCTED AS A CHILD TO BE SOLD INTO A SLAVERY RING...
...WHEN SHE RESCUED YOU FROM THAT FATE.
DON'T CALL HER TIGER!!

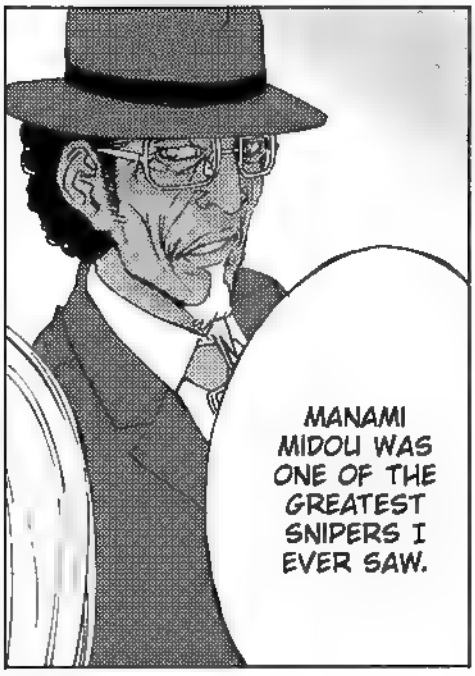
THEN YOU BECAME INVOLVED WITH JESUS, AND SHE PASSED AWAY.
THAT'S WHY YOU WANT TO KILL HIM, ISN'T IT?
...HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT!?


HOW DARE YOU—!

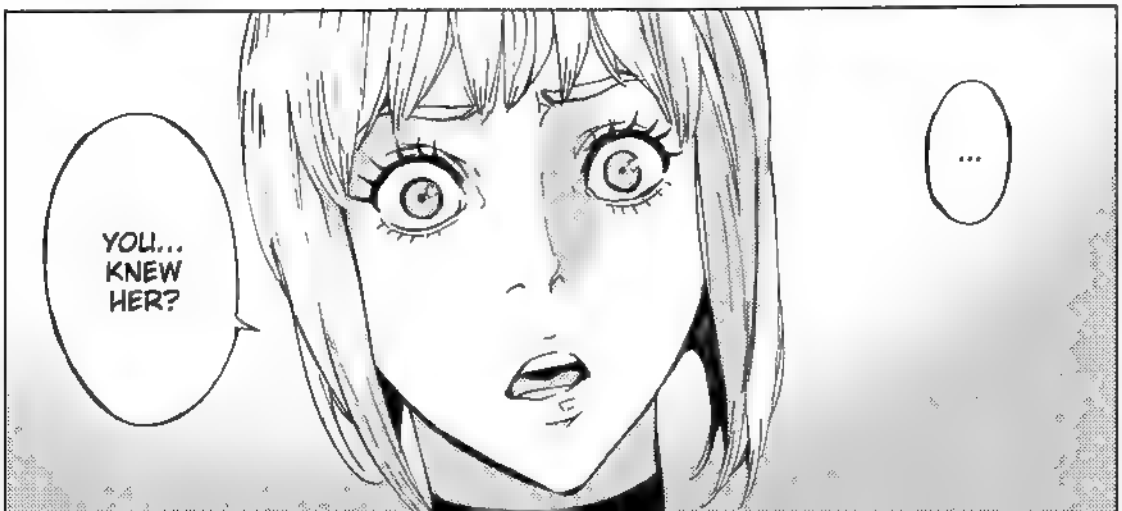
HER ENTIRE BODY WAS STRIPED WITH TERRIBLE SCARS.
THUS EARNING HER THE MONIKER OF "TIGER."

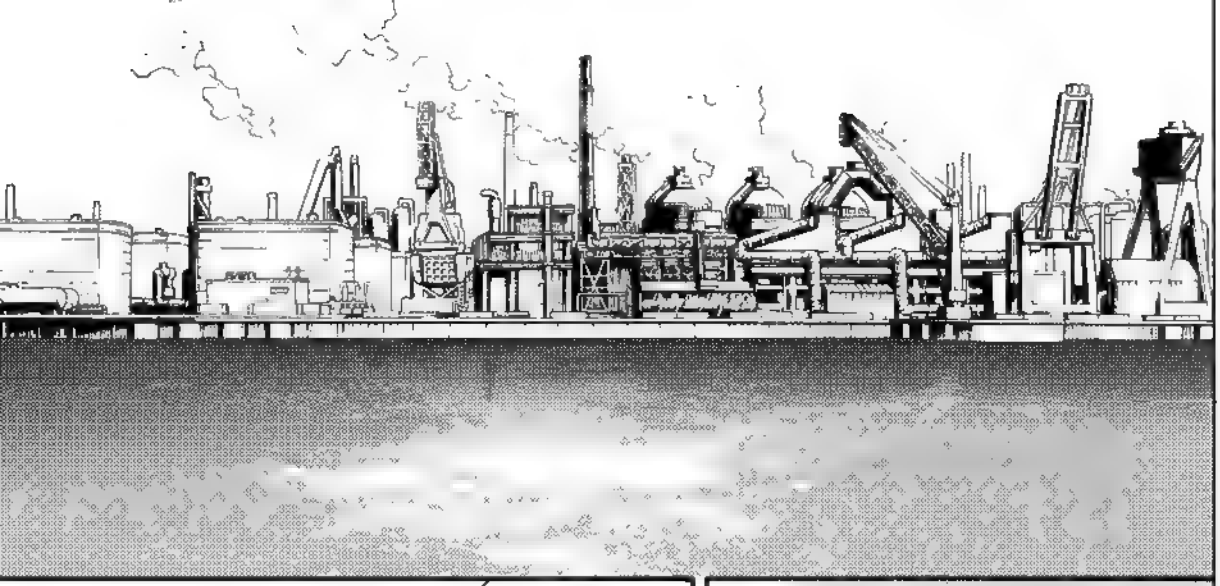
YOU SAID IT AGAIN!?
WHEN I SAY "TIGER," I DON'T MEAN IT AS AN INSULT LIKE THE OTHERS!!
KA (SNAP)

WHAT'S THE HARM!? INSPIRING ENOUGH FEAR TO EARN A NICKNAME IS THE SIGN OF A WORTHY FIGHTER!!
IT'S A POINT OF PRIDE!

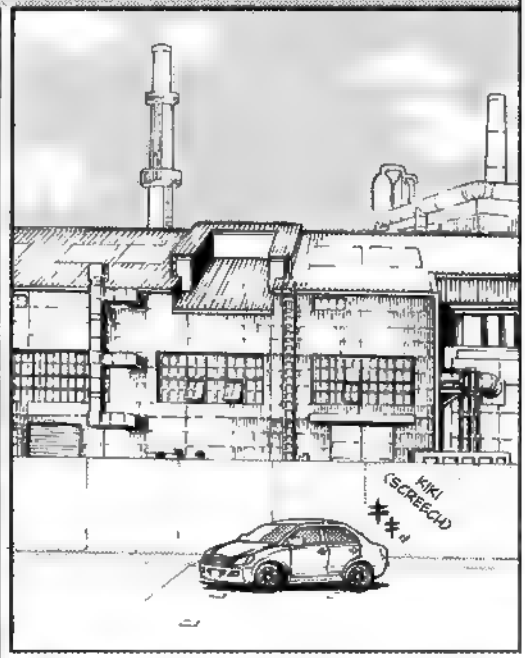

MANAMI MIDOU WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST SNIPERS I EVER SAW.

SHE DIDN'T LIKE THAT NAME, SO I UNDERSTAND YOUR ANGER.
BUT SOME CALLED HER THAT OUT OF RESPECT.


...
YOU... KNEW HER?



SO THIS IS THE PLACE THAT'S LIKELY TO BE THEIR HIDEOUT?
YEP. WE WORKED OVER THE ENTIRE REGION, AND THIS SEEMS TO BE THE SPOT.


KIKI (SCREECH)

Until
Death
do us
Part

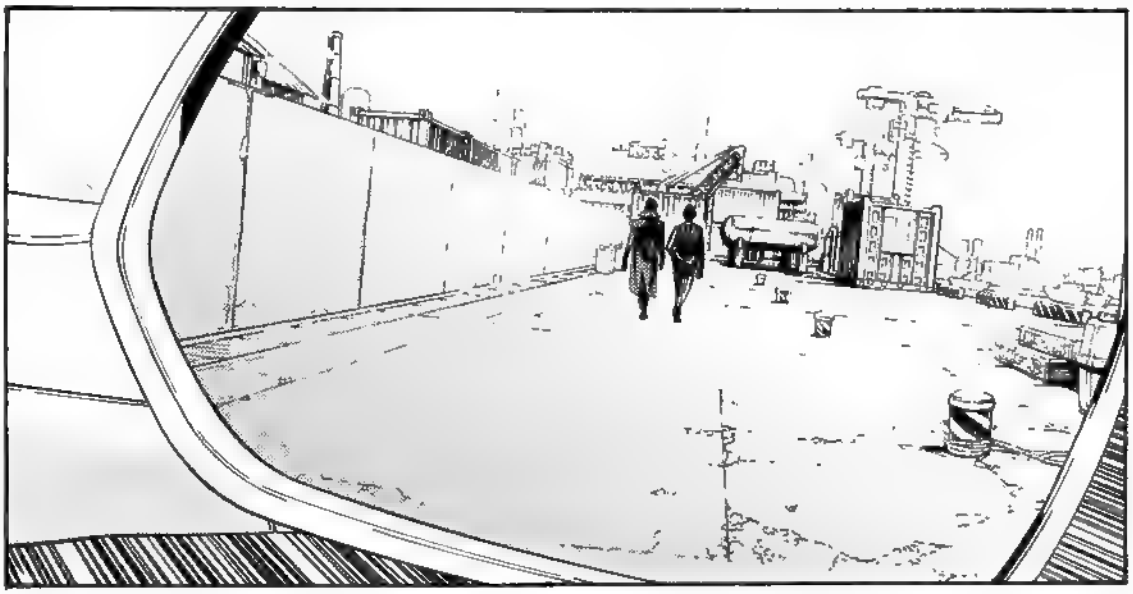
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
YOU WANT ME TO HANG BACK?

IF WE DON'T CHECK IN REGULARLY, ASSUME SOMETHING'S WRONG AND CALL FOR BACKUP.
YEAH.

ZA (ZSH)
ZA

ブロロロロ
BLOOOO
(VRRRRR)
...

ブォン
BUON
(VWOOM)



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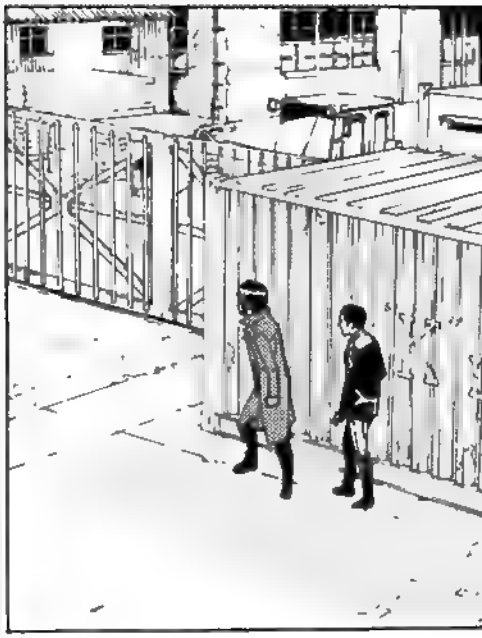
YOU CERTAIN ABOUT THIS, GENDA-SAN?
WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO DO IS REALLY SKIRTING THE LAW.

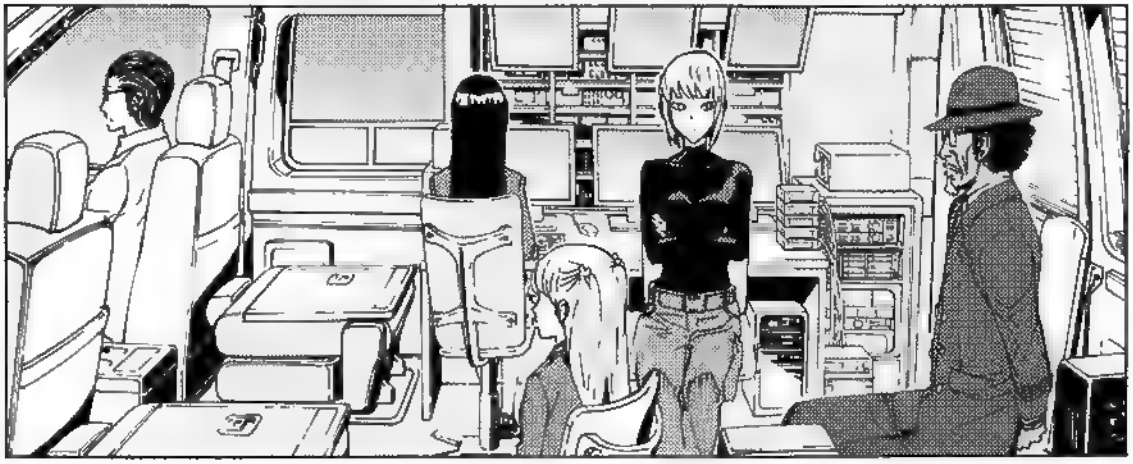


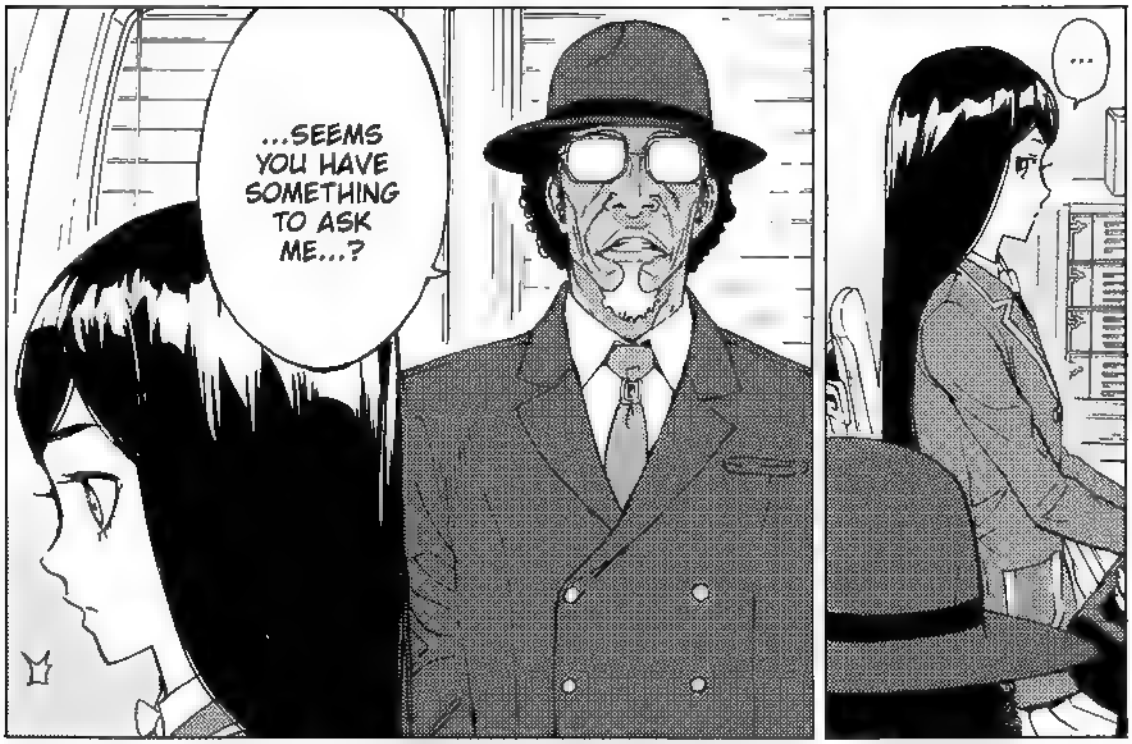
EVER SINCE I SAW THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS, IT'S BEEN EATING AWAY AT ME INSIDE.

I DON'T CARE, AS LONG AS WE CAN DRAG 'EM OUT INTO THE OPEN.

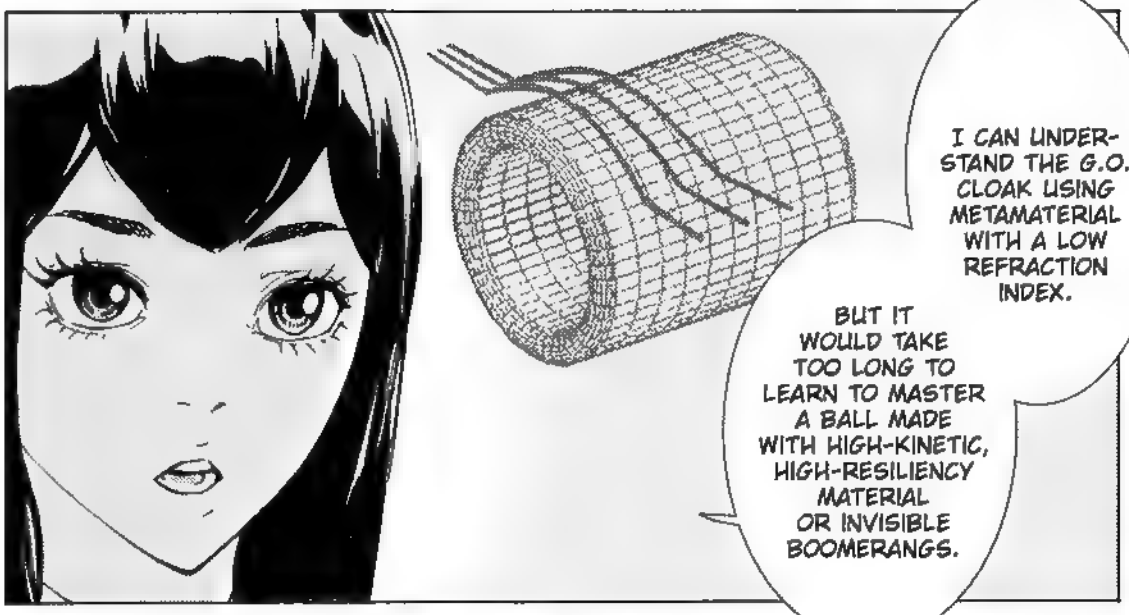
I CAN'T LET SOMEONE ELSE TAKE THIS ONE. I WANT THESE FUCKERS MYSELF.

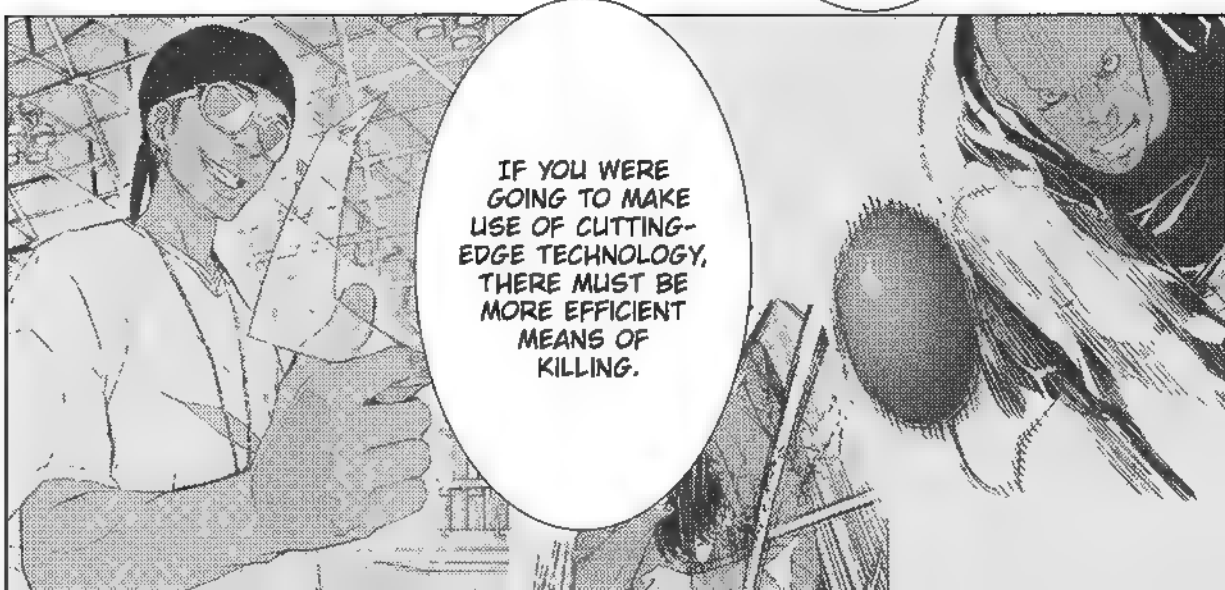
BLOOD (VRUM)




...SEEMS YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK ME...?
...

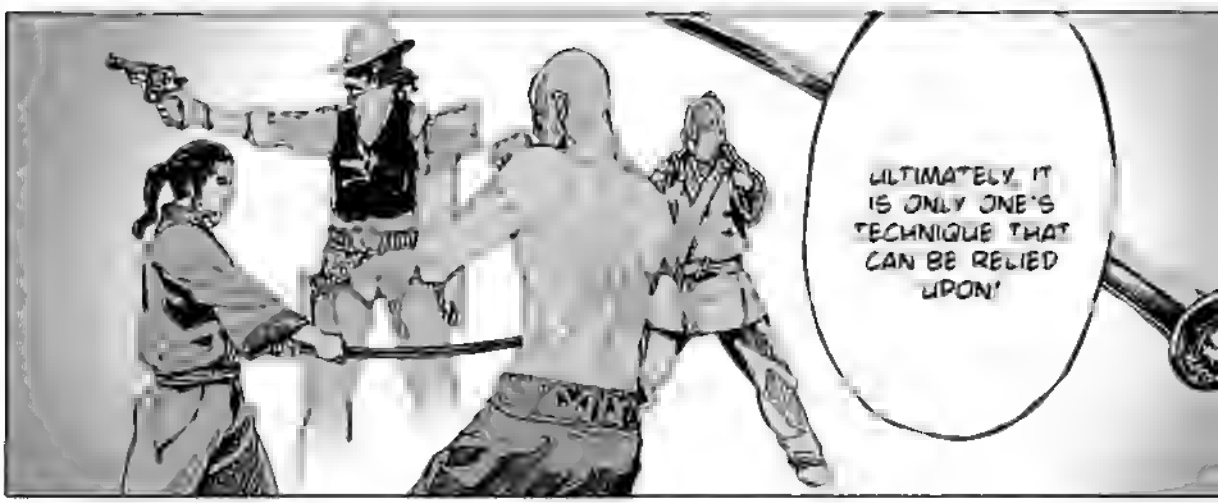
I CANNOT FATHOM WHY YOU'D INVENT SUCH METHODS OF KILLING...
...
...
KURU (SPIN)


I CAN UNDERSTAND THE G.O. CLOAK USING METAMATERIAL WITH A LOW REFRACTION INDEX.
BUT IT WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO LEARN TO MASTER A BALL MADE WITH HIGH-KINETIC, HIGH-RESILIENCY MATERIAL OR INVISIBLE BOOMERANGS.


IF YOU WERE GOING TO MAKE USE OF CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY, THERE MUST BE MORE EFFICIENT MEANS OF KILLING.

THEY ASKED ME THE SAME QUESTION AT FIRST
YOU HAVE A VERY GOOD BRAIN ON YOUR SHOULDERS. BUT INFORMATION IS NOT THE SAME THING AS UNDERSTANDING
...YOUNG MISS
NO MATTER HOW ADVANCED THE TECHNOLOGY AND MATERIAL
...AT THE CRUX OF THE MATTER, IT IS HUMAN HANDS AND HUMAN WILL THAT KILL A MAN!

TECHNOLOGY IS NOTHING MORE THAN A TOOL
WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE AND THE LATEST TECH FAILS AND BREAKS DOWN YOU'VE DUG YOUR OWN GRAVE
HOW MANY YEARS DO YOU THINK IT TOOK FOR COMMON FIREARMS TO BECOME THE TRUSTED STANDARD TOOL FOR KILLING?


ULTIMATELY, IT IS ONLY ONE'S TECHNIQUE THAT CAN BE RELIED UPON!

HAS HE EVER FOUGHT IN A WAY THAT DEPENDED ON THE SPECIAL EDGE OF HIS BLADE?
...
ISN'T THAT HOW THE SAMURAI OPERATES?
...GOOD POINT...
AS FOR JESUS...

IN THE VERY END, WHAT WEAPONS DOES HE TRUST? HIS REVOLVER, HIS KNIFE, HIS BARE HANDS.
...

...I DOUBT HE'S EVER FOUGHT WITH ABSOLUTE RELIANCE ON HIS PROSTHETIC HAND.

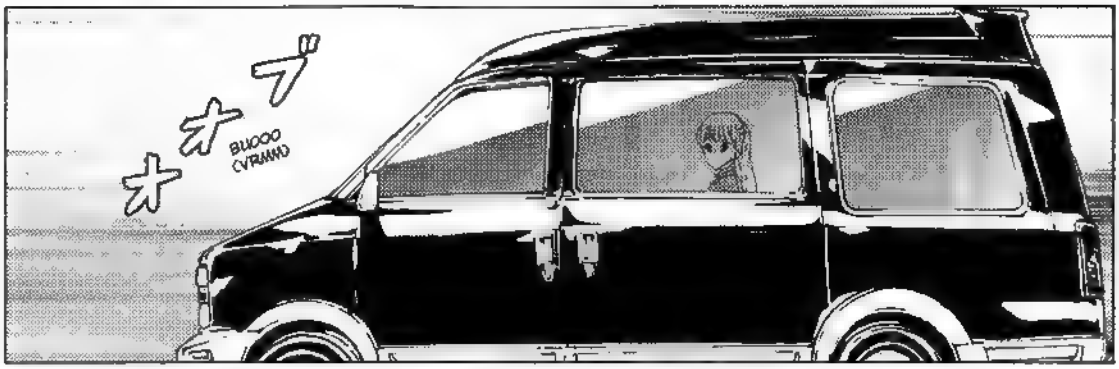
...

FROM WHAT I HEAR OF TATE THE AEGIS...

IN THE END, THEY'RE JUST TOOLS.
LIFE AND DEATH DEPENDS UPON THE WIELDER.

THE BEST FIGHTERS ALL RELY ON THE BASICS TO SURVIVE AND MAKE A NAME FOR THEMSELVES.
THAT'S MY BATTLE CREED.

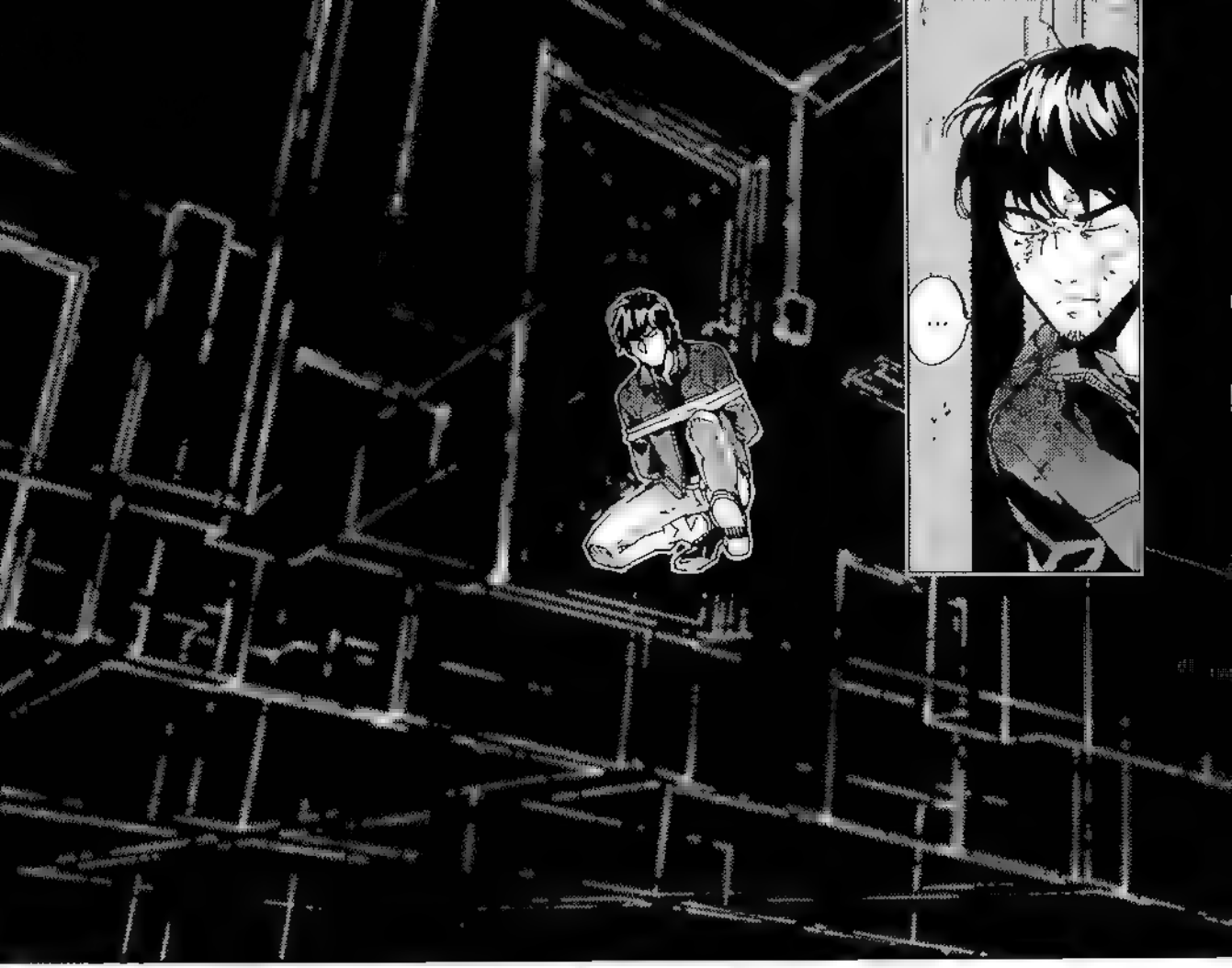
I SEE...
SO HE DOES
FOLLOW
THE SAME
INSTINCTS
AS MAMORU-
SAN...


ブオブオ
BUOOO
(VRMM)

MAMORU-
SAN...
YOU'RE SAFE,
WHEREVER
YOU ARE...
RIGHT?

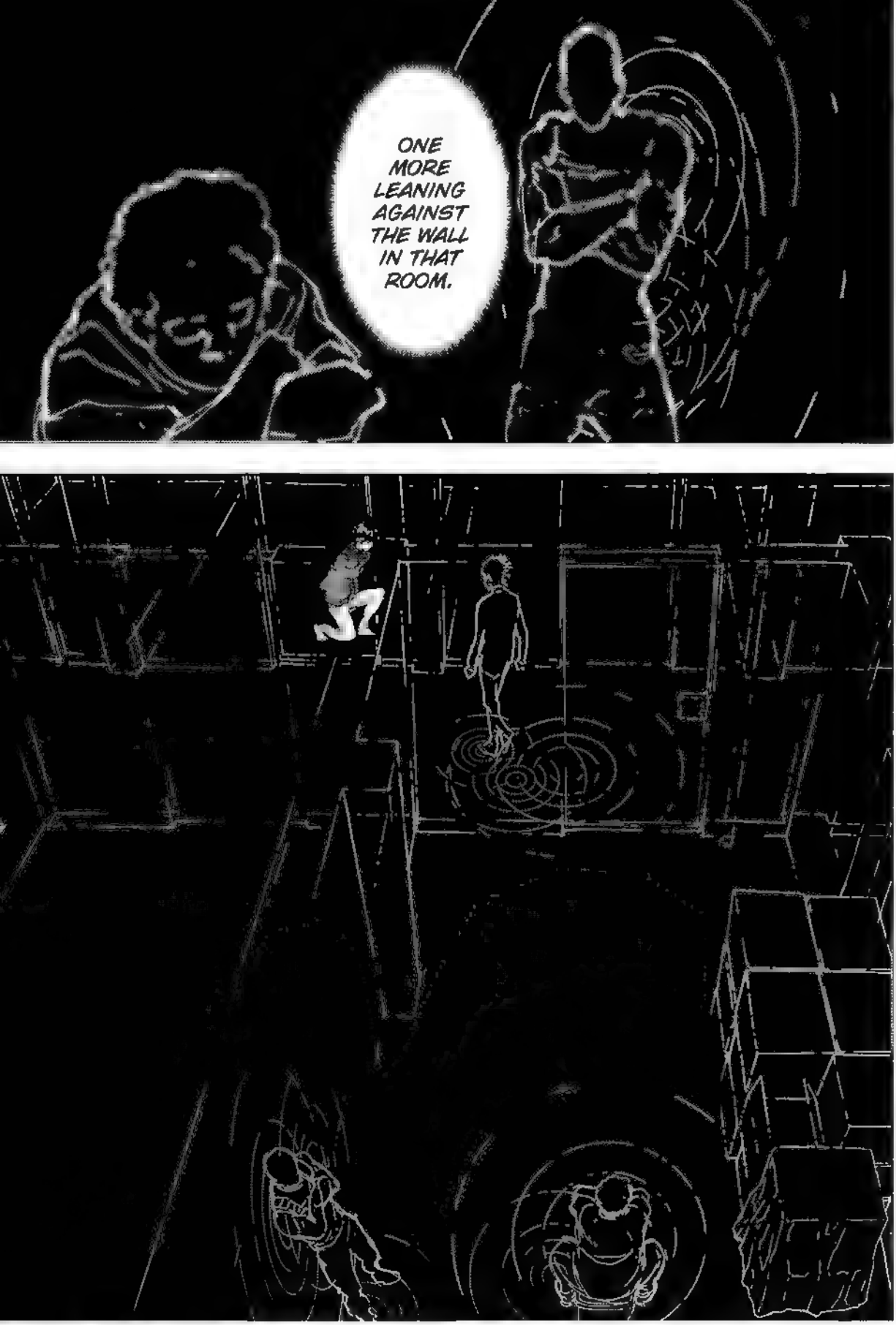
...
URGH
...
...
...GAH...
(TONK)
NOT A LOT OF ROOM, IT SEEMS...

WELL, THIS IS JUST GREAT...
KOKI (CRAK)
I THINK I CAN MOVE ...
HMM...?


...

SITTING IN A CHAIR.

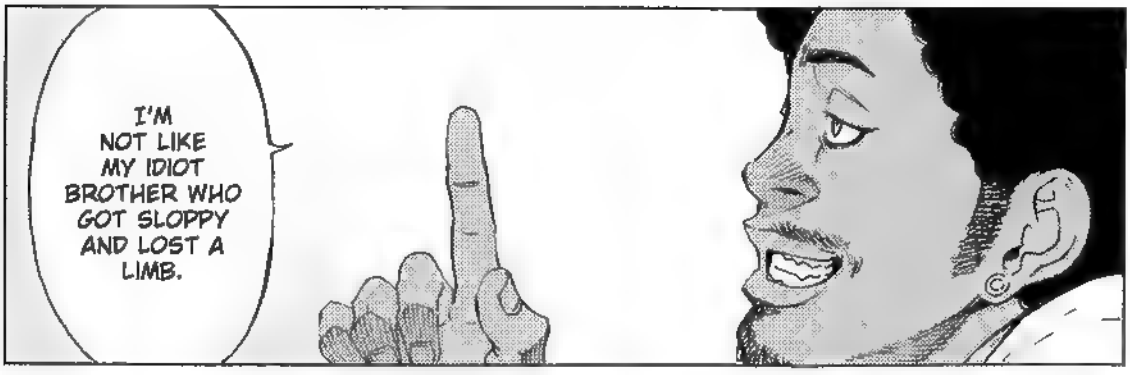
ONE PERSON, TWELVE METERS TO THE RIGHT...


ONE MORE LEANING AGAINST THE WALL IN THAT ROOM.

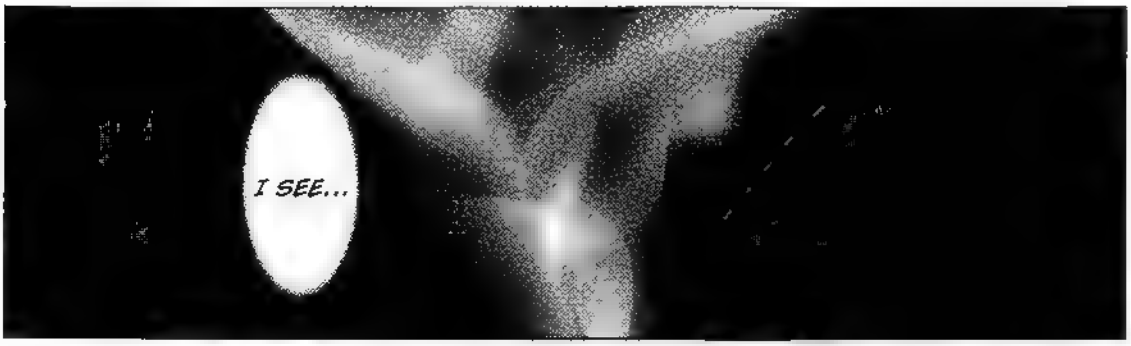
IT'S HIM...
THE LENGTH OF HIS STRIDE ...
SO I DON'T NEED TO BEAT YOU AWAKE.
...
ガチャ
GACHA (CLICK)

PERFECT.
YOU'RE GONNA GET YOUR AUDIENCE.
CAN YOU STAY ON YOUR FEET?
STOP RIGHT THERE.

A BIT OVER-CAUTIOUS, DON'T YOU THINK?


I'M NOT LIKE MY IDIOT BROTHER WHO GOT SLOPPY AND LOST A LIMB.

AHH... SO YOU'RE BROTHERS.


I SEE...

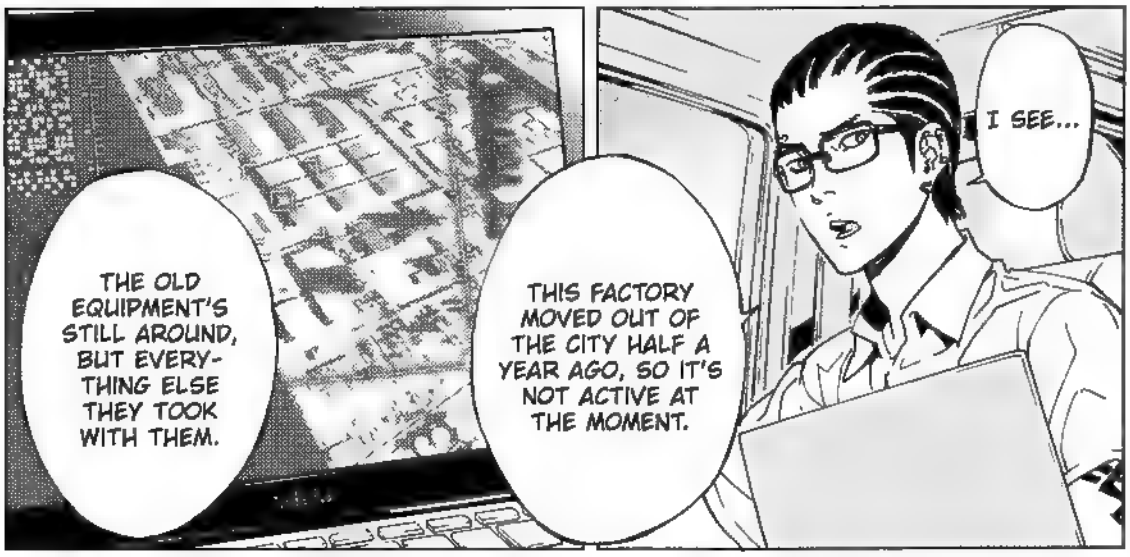
THANKS TO YOU, THE ASSHOLE KEEPING ME DOWN TOOK HIMSELF RIGHT OUTTA THE PICTURE.
KATA (RATTLE)
KATA
HE'S EVEN GONNA GIVE ME HIS SECRET FORTUNE.
SO THANKS FOR THAT, SAMURAI.
...
HE'S GOOD TOO...

I DUNNO WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, BUT I'LL ALLOW YOU TO TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THE GIRL.
THAT WAS ONE OF THE REASONS THAT I DECIDED TO GO ALONG WITH YOUR PLOT AND LEAVE YOU ALIVE.
GII (CREAK)
GII
GATAN (THUMP)
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT, YOU CAN CHOOSE TO DIE.

...

AS A SIGN OF GRATITUDE, I'LL MAKE IT QUICK AND PAINLESS.

ブォォォォ
BLOOOO (VROOM)


THE OLD EQUIPMENT'S STILL AROUND, BUT EVERYTHING ELSE THEY TOOK WITH THEM.
THIS FACTORY MOVED OUT OF THE CITY HALF A YEAR AGO, SO IT'S NOT ACTIVE AT THE MOMENT.
I SEE...

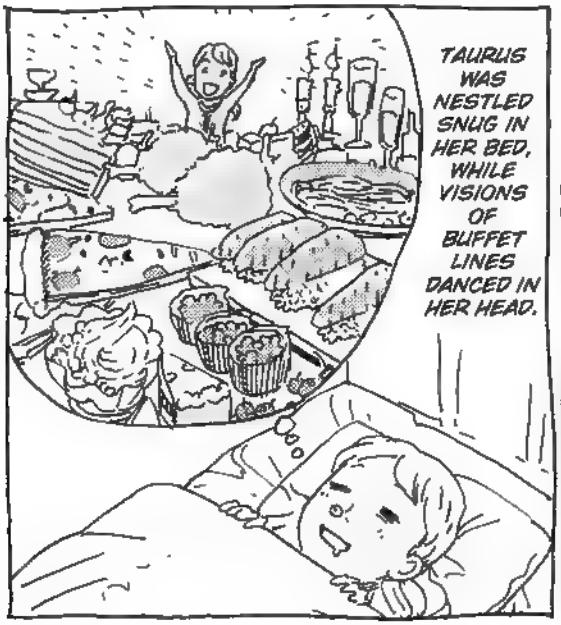
NOT A BAD PLACE FOR A BUNCH OF UNFAMILIAR FOREIGNERS TO HIDE OUT.

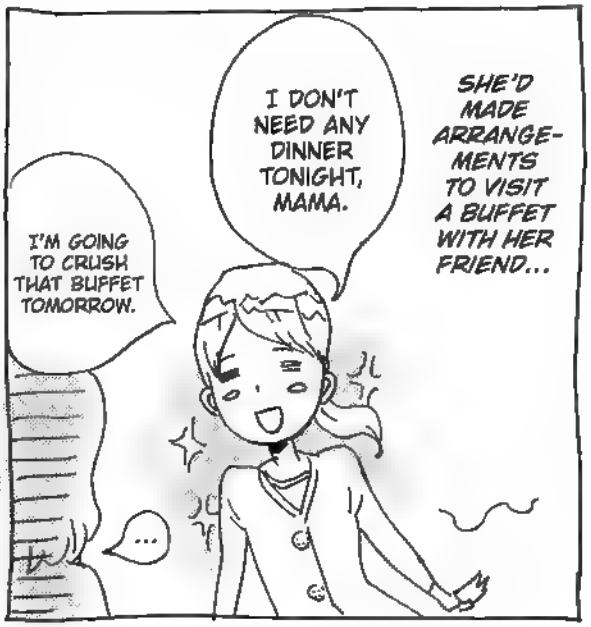
until death do us part ❽ — end

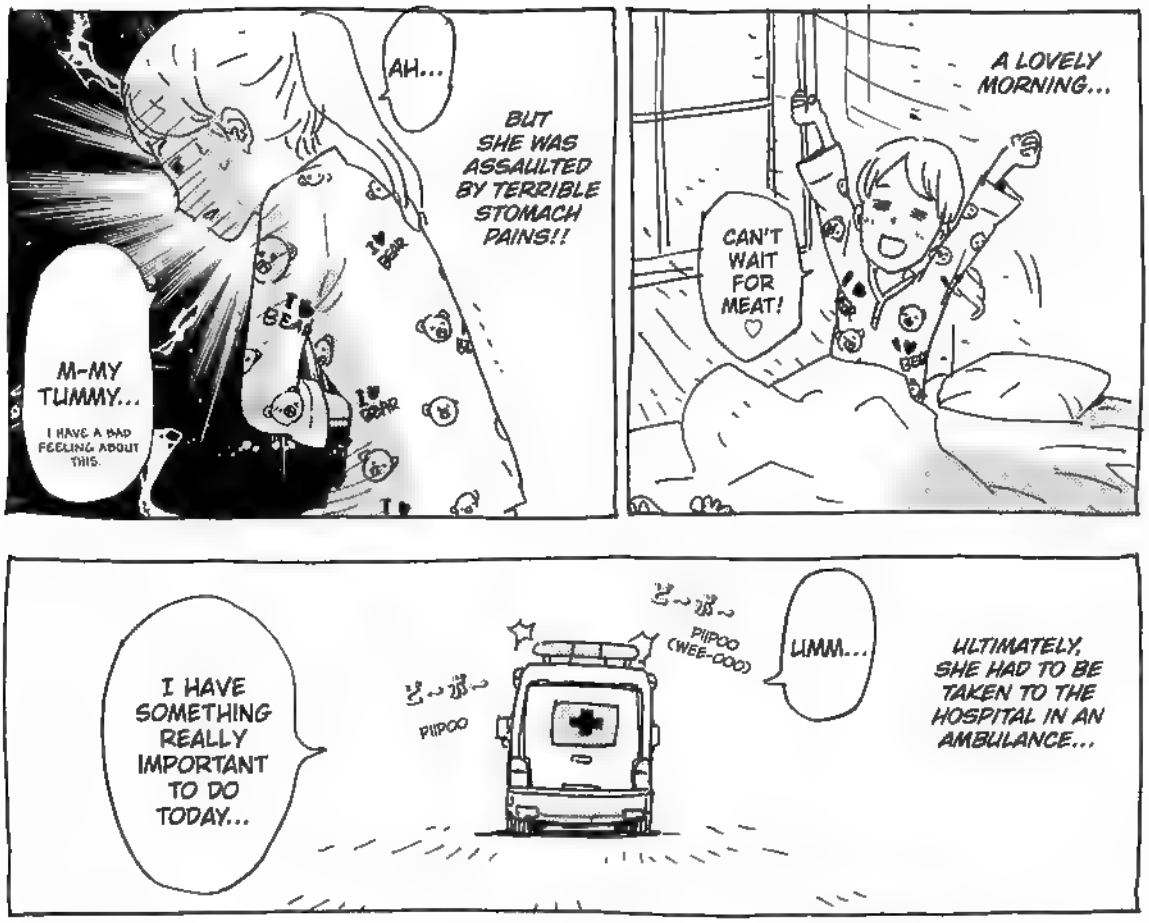
ZA
(MSZ)

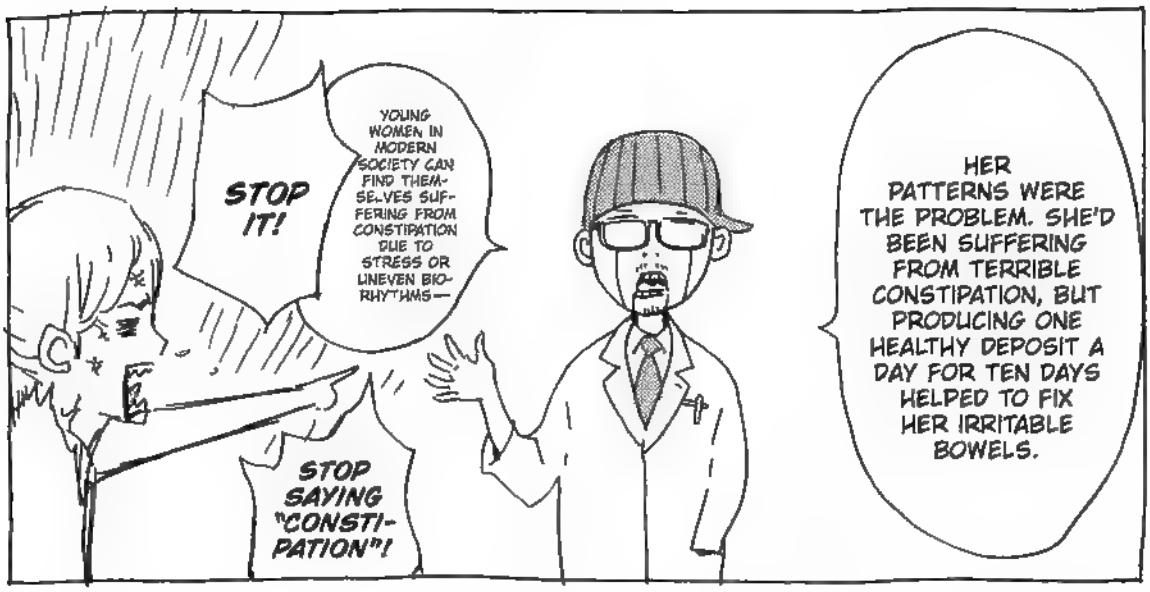
Until
Death
do us
Part

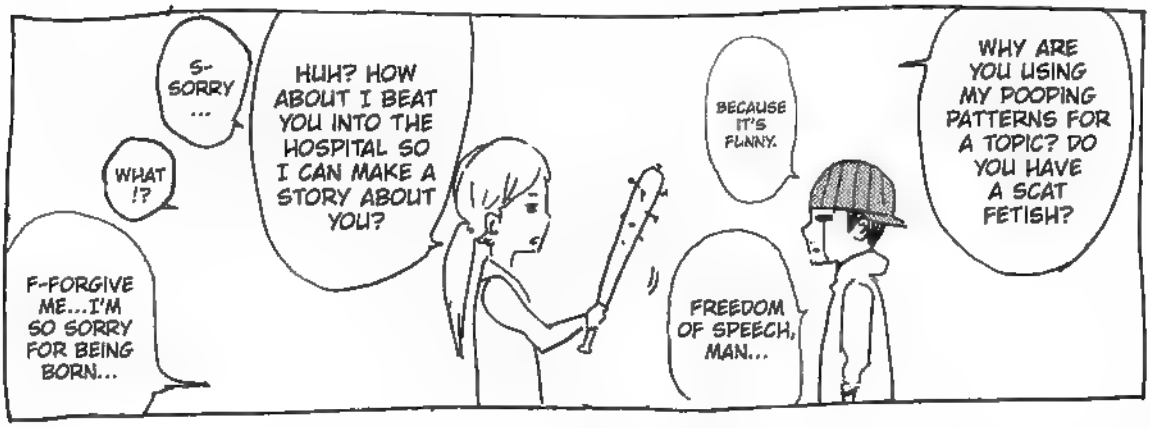
OUR BACKGROUND ARTIST TAURUS-CHAN WAS HOSPITALIZED WITH IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME.

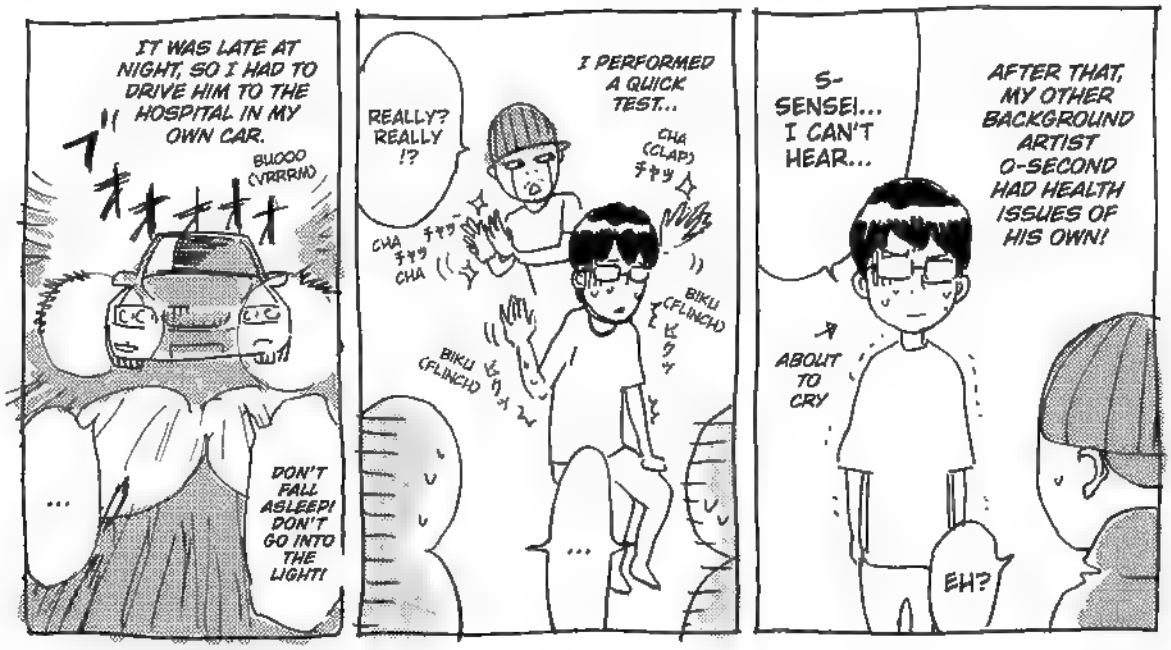



I'M GOING TO CRUSH THAT BUFFET TOMORROW.
I DON'T NEED ANY DINNER TONIGHT, MAMA.
SHE'D MADE ARRANGE-MENTS TO VISIT A BUFFET WITH HER FRIEND...
...


M-MY TUMMY...
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
AH...
BUT SHE WAS ASSAULTED BY TERRIBLE STOMACH PAINS!!
A LOVELY MORNING...
CAN'T WAIT FOR MEAT!
I HAVE SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT TO DO TODAY...
PIIPOO
PIIPOO (WEE-OOO)
UMM...
ULTIMATELY, SHE HAD TO BE TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL IN AN AMBULANCE...
THESE THINGS CAUSED HER TO GIVE BIRTH TO A MIRACLE...
THE PERFECT TURD!!
DID MY BODY TRULY PRODUCE THIS, GOD!?
AHH... IT'S SO BEAUTI-FUL!
SHE HAD A REGULATED SCHEDULE...
etc
SLEEP
EAT
EAT
etc
etc
EAT
THIS ISN'T SO BAD WHEN YOU GET USED TO IT.
HEALTHY, BLAND FOOD PROVIDED BY THE HOSPITAL ...
THAT WAS THE START OF A TEN-DAY STAY...


STOP IT!
YOUNG WOMEN IN MODERN SOCIETY CAN FIND THEMSELVES SUFFERING FROM CONSTIPATION DUE TO STRESS OR UNEVEN BIORHYTHMS—
STOP SAYING "CONSTIPATION"!
HER PATTERNS WERE THE PROBLEM. SHE'D BEEN SUFFERING FROM TERRIBLE CONSTIPATION, BUT PRODUCING ONE HEALTHY DEPOSIT A DAY FOR TEN DAYS HELPED TO FIX HER IRRITABLE BOWELS.


S-SORRY ...
WHAT!?
F-FORGIVE ME...I'M SO SORRY FOR BEING BORN...
HUH? HOW ABOUT I BEAT YOU INTO THE HOSPITAL SO I CAN MAKE A STORY ABOUT YOU?
BECAUSE IT'S FUNNY.
FREEDOM OF SPEECH, MAN...
WHY ARE YOU USING MY POOPING PATTERNS FOR A TOPIC? DO YOU HAVE A SCAT FETISH?


IT WAS LATE AT NIGHT, SO I HAD TO DRIVE HIM TO THE HOSPITAL IN MY OWN CAR.
BUOOO (VRRRM)
...
DON'T FALL ASLEEP! DON'T GO INTO THE LIGHT!
REALLY? REALLY!?
I PERFORMED A QUICK TEST...
CHA (CLAP)
CHA CHA CHA
BIKU (FLINCH)
BIKU (FLINCH)
...
S-SENSEI... I CAN'T HEAR...
ABOUT TO CRY
AFTER THAT, MY OTHER BACKGROUND ARTIST O-SECOND HAD HEALTH ISSUES OF HIS OWN!
EH?

...WHAT WE FOUND WAS AN ENORMOUS CHUNK OF EARWAX!!
WHOA !!!
OKAY, HERE WE GO.
AFTER A SCOPE EXAMINATION...
COOL.
BUT...
UM...
IT'S THE OTHER SIDE I CAN'T HEAR OUT OF...
UH...
...?
IT MADE ME THINK ...
...OF THE FAMOUS SCENE FROM RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK...
ANYWAY, STAY HEALTHY, EVERYONE!
I'M GOING TO SUE YOU BLIND...
THERE, THERE.
...BUT HE CLAIMED THAT HE DIDN'T FEEL A THING. ANYWAY, HE'S BETTER NOW.
THE DOCTOR SAID THAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY PAINFUL...
HE HAD TYMPANITIS.
OPERATION
GAK-GAK-GAK!
SKREEE!

Art Staff
Suri ♀: Chief Assistant
0-Second ♂: Background Art
Taurus ♀: Background Art

Military Advisor
Lee Hyun Seok (warmania)
Oh Se Chan

SPECIAL THANKS
Shingo Takano

Crossover Planning
JESUS——Sajin Kouro, Yami no Aegis, Akatsuki no Aegis
Written by Kyouichi Nanatsuki, Art by Yoshihide Fujiwara (Shogakukan)

Design Assistance
Hitoshi Fukuchi

Until
Death
do us
Part

Translation Notes

Common Honorifics
no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.
***-san*:** The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.
***-sama*:** Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.
***-kun*:** Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.
***-chan*:** An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.
***-senpai*:** A suffix used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.
***-sensei*:** A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

Yen conversion: While exchange rates fluctuate daily, a convenient conversion estimation is about ¥100 to 1 USD.

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Metamaterial: A catchall term for substances created by artificial means. Metamaterials are typically designed such that it is not the composition of the material but the physical structure that achieves the material's means. In most cases, metamaterials are designed to have special effects on light or sound in ways that ordinary material does not.

UNTIL DEATH DO US PART 8

Hiroshi Takashige
DOUBLE-S

Translation: Stephen Paul
Lettering: AndWorld Design

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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